

A Triumph of Surgery

by James Herriot

Chapter Overview

The story narrates the episode where the narrator (Dr James Herriot), a veterinary surgeon saves the life of a dull dog, Tricki. The dog is overtired by her wealthy owner, Mrs Pumphrey and thus is hospitalised under the care of the surgeon. The surgeon cures him without any 'surgery' or medication.

About the Characters

James Herriot James is a veterinary surgeon, who proves to be a capable doctor and a wise individual. He is an animal lover and a caring guardian.

Mrs Pumphrey Mrs Pumphrey is a wealthy single woman. She is very much attached to her dog, Tricki. She is very loving but weak at heart.

Tricki Tricki is a lazy and fat dog who loves food. He is very fond of his owner. He turns out to be energetic and lively after recovering from his illness.

Summary

Tricki Looks ill

When Dr James was driving he saw Mrs Pumphrey and Tricki walking down the street. As he stopped his car, he was shocked to see that Tricki had become fat like a sausage. His eyes were red and his tongue was hanging out. It looked like Tricki lacked energy and was ill. Dr James enquired about Tricki's health from Mrs Pumphrey.

Dr James Enquires About Tricki

Mrs Pumphrey explained to Dr James that Tricki was looking listless (dull) and weak. She felt that he was suffering from malnutrition. So, she had been giving him some extra food (malt, cod-liver oil and Horlicks) between his main meals.

Further, Dr James asked Mrs Pumphrey whether she had cut down the sweet things from Tricki's diet. Mrs Pumphrey replied that she had tried but failed as Tricki loves cream cakes and chocolates.

She also told to Dr James that Tricki only walks with her and does not play games like ring-throwing which he played earlier.

Dr James Advice

After knowing about Tricki's condition and his routine, Dr James informed Mrs Pumphrey that if she did not reduce his food and increase his exercise, her dog (Tricki) would fall ill.

He also advised her to strictly follow the prescribed diet. Mrs Pumphrey confessed that it would be very difficult for her. But, she agreed to try and walked off with Tricki.

Dr James Received an Expected Call from Mrs Pumphrey

After a few days, Mrs Pumphrey called and informed Dr James about Tricki's health. She told him that Tricki was not eating anything and had been vomiting. She further informed him that her dog spent all his time lying on a rug and did not do anything.

Dr James knew that the only way to cure Tricki was to get him out of the house for some time. He suggested Mrs Pumphrey to hospitalise him for a fortnight for observation so that the proper treatment can follow.

Tricki's Farewell

Dr James suggestion broke Mrs Pumphrey's heart but, she allowed him to take Tricki along with him to his surgery. Dr James carried Tricki wrapped in a blanket to his car.

The maids started to put together things that Tricki would need during hospitalisation. These include his beds (day and night) cushions, toys, bowls, etc.

Dr James started to drive off as he knew that his car could not carry so many things. He noticed in the mirror that everybody was in tears.

Tricki's Stay and Recovery at the Hospital

Tricki laid motionless on the carpet. Many other dogs in the hospital sniffed around him and found him uninterested in anything.

Tricki was put on a water diet for first two days. At the end of the second day, Tricki started to show some interest in his surroundings. On the third day he whimpered (cried in low and weak sound), trotted (walked slowly) and joined the greyhound (hunting dog) in the garden.

Later on the third day, he ran with enthusiasm when the food was served. He also gulped (swallowed) down the extra food that was put out for him.

Tricki's Recovery

Tricki recovered at a very fast pace (speed). No medicine had been given to Tricki for his treatment. He had started running all day long and enjoyed with other dogs.

WORD MEANINGS

The given page nos. correspond to the pages in the prescribed textbook.

Word	Meaning	Word	Meaning
Page 1			
bloated	full of food or gas and therefore bigger than normal in a way that is unpleasant and uncomfortable.	tottering	to walk or move with weak unsteady steps.
hastened	to say or do things quickly without delay.	distraught	extremely worried.
malt	grain, usually left in water for a period of time and then dried, used for making beer, whisky etc.	swooned	to become unconscious.
relent	to agree upon something after refusing.	fortnight	A period of 2 weeks
Page 2			
regime	prescribed course of exercise and diet.	Page 3	
		supper	the last meal of the day, either a main meal, usually smaller and less formal than dinner.
		despairing	the feeling of having lost all hope.
		whimper	a low weak cry a person or an animal makes when hurt, frightened or sad.

He found joy in being bowled over (pushed) and squashed. He became a part of the gang of dogs at the hospital. He not only fought with them for food but also chased rats with them at night.

Mrs Pumphrey's Concern

Mrs Pumphrey used to phone the vet's clinic several times in a day. As she was keen to know about Tricki's recovery. Dr James did not pay much attention to her questions about Tricki's dressing, but he assured her that Tricki was out of danger.

As Tricki's health started improving, Mrs Pumphrey started sending additional food items, like eggs, wine and brandy for Tricki. As this was not required in Tricki's diet. The vet and his partner consumed these additional items themselves. Everybody was so happy with the unusual delicious food that they wanted to keep Tricki as a permanent guest.

Tricki Goes Home

As Dr James knew that Mrs Pumphrey loved Tricki very much he called and informed her that Tricki was fit and could go home. Mrs Pumphrey reached the surgery within half an hour.

Mrs Pumphrey enquired about Tricki's actual condition. Dr James informed her that Tricki was fine and went to get Tricki from the garden. Tricki had become healthy and strong in his two weeks stay at the surgery.

As soon as the dog saw his owner, he jumped into her lap and started licking her face. Mrs Pumphrey was very happy at finding Tricki as excited as he used to be. She thanked Dr James Herriot and called the treatment "A triumph of surgery."

Word	Meaning
slopped	to make liquid or food come out of a container in an untidy way.
Page 4	
jostling	to push roughly against somebody in a crowd.
scrimmages	rough or confused struggle.
convalescing	recovering from an illness; to spend time getting your health and strength back after an illness.
Page 5	
chauffeur	a person whose job is to drive a car, especially for somebody rich or important.
lithe	flexible (moving or bending easily in a way that is elegant).

NCERT FOLDER

Here we have covered questions given in the NCERT textbook along with their answers.)

Read and Find Out (Page 1 and 3)

- Why is Mrs Pumphrey worried about Tricki?
 Ans. Mrs Pumphrey is worried about Tricki because he is unwell. She feels that he is suffering from a serious health issue such as malnutrition, as he has become dull and seems to have no energy.
- What does she do to help him? Is she wise in this?
 Ans. To help Tricki and to improve his condition, Mrs Pumphrey starts giving him extra food like malt, cod-liver oil and Horlicks, between his main meals. She also continues to give him sweet like cream cakes and chocolates.
 She is not wise in doing so because overfeeding Tricki is worsening his condition instead of improving it. It has made him very fat and lazy.
- Who does 'I' refer to in this story?
 Ans. 'I' refers to the narrator, Dr James Herriot, a veterinary doctor who guides Mrs Pumphrey in taking care of her dog, Tricki.
- Is the narrator as rich as Tricki's mistress?
 Ans. No, the narrator is not as rich as Tricki's mistress, Mrs Pumphrey. We can say so because the narrator seems fascinated by how Mrs Pumphrey spends on the well-being and maintenance of her pet. He is unusually surprised by the enriching items she sends for Tricki, as he cannot afford them for himself.

5 How does he treat the dog?

- Ans. James Herriot treats Tricki just like he would treat an overweight and lazy dog. He cuts down his food intake and keeps him under strict observation for the initial days at the hospital. He gradually increases Tricki's food and sets him free for physical activities to improve his health.

6 Why is he tempted to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest?

- Ans. Mr Herriot is tempted to keep Tricki on as a permanent guest because of the good food and wine he is enjoying in Tricki's name. He does not want to lose the luxurious inflow of fresh eggs, wine and brandy that Tricki's mistress, Mrs Pumphrey sends for her dog.

7 Why does Mrs Pumphrey think the dog's recovery is "a triumph of surgery"?

- Ans. Mrs Pumphrey thinks that Tricki's recovery is "a triumph of surgery" because according to her, his illness was very serious. She was of the opinion that there were very few chances of Tricki's improvement and he needed immediate medical attention. Thus, for her Tricki's revival without any medication was a great achievement.

Think About It (Page 6)

- What kind of a person do you think the narrator, a veterinary surgeon, is? Would you say he is tactful as well as full of common sense?
 Ans. The narrator, a veterinary surgeon, is a capable and wise doctor. He handles Tricki properly which shows that he is sincere about his profession.
 He does not operate upon the dog unnecessarily and cures him by changing his diet and activities.
 He is a tactful person as he knew exactly how to convince Mrs Pumphrey to hospitalise Tricki for a surgery. His decision to inform Mrs Pumphrey to take Tricki home supports his sensibilities even though he was tempted to keep Tricki as a permanent guest.
- Do you think Tricki was happy to go home? What do you think will happen now?
 Ans. Yes, I think Tricki was happy to go back home as he really loved his mistress and the comfort of his lavish life. He didn't have any friends at home like in the hospital, but he seemed equally excited at the sight of Mrs Pumphrey.
 I think that Mrs Pumphrey will now be careful about Tricki's diet and health. She may also give him exercise daily as prescribed by the veterinary doctor earlier.
- Do you think it is a real-life episode or mere fiction? Or is it a mixture of both?
 Ans. The story seems to be a mixture of both. It may be possible for rich persons to overfeed their pets due to love. It is not unusual for them to maintain a vast wardrobe for them either.
 However, it is unlikely for a veterinary doctor to go out of the way and lie in order to save an animal. It is also unusual for anyone to consume food which is given in the name of a pet's health.

Talk About It (Page 7)

1 This episode describes the silly behaviour of a rich woman who is foolishly indulgent, perhaps because she is lonely. Do you think such people are merely silly or can their actions cause harm to others?

Ans. Mrs Pumphrey's silly behaviour of being foolishly indulgent with her dog Tricki, most probably rises out of her loneliness. She treats Tricki like a child. She not only dresses him up according to the weather but also pampers him.

Such actions of Mrs Pumphrey are not only silly, they also cause harm to others. Because of her over parenting, Tricki's condition is so worsened that he needs to be hospitalised to be kept away from her.

2 Do you think there are also parents like Mrs Pumphrey?

Ans. Yes, I think there are some parents like Mrs Pumphrey who spoil their children by pampering them. They overfeed their children/pets despite being aware of its harmful effects on their health. They regret only when things get worse.

3 What would you have done if you were : (i) a member of the staff in Mrs Pumphrey's household. (ii) a neighbour? What would your life have been like, in general?

Ans. (i) If I were a member of the staff in her household, I would have not followed Mrs Pumphrey's command to feed Tricki blindly. In fact, I would have fed him according to the vet's advice. I would have also skipped sending the unnecessary stuff like toys, cushions, etc to the hospital. My life would have been a very busy one, as I would have had to take care of the household chores and meet Tricki's demands on time.

(ii) If I were Mrs Pumphrey's neighbour, I would have advised her to consult a vet and follow his advice strictly keeping in mind Tricki's deteriorating health. I would have also been supportive in their hard time when Tricki was hospitalised. My life as Mrs Pumphrey's neighbour would have been full of surprises and gifts as Mrs Pumphrey was a loving lady.

4 What would you have done if you were in the narrator's place?

Ans. If I were in the narrator's place, I would have treated Tricki with a similar amount of compassion and love. I would have been equally caring as Mr James Herriot towards Tricki. I would have just been a little more serious while advising Mrs Pumphrey to put Tricki on a strict diet knowing her way of showing love. I would have also not consumed Tricki's share of eggs, wine and brandy sent by Mrs Pumphrey.

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Exam Practice

Extract Based Questions

[2 Marks each]

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1 "And did you cut down on the sweet things as I told you?"

- (a) Why does the speaker enquire if the sweet things have been cut down?
(b) What is the meaning of the phrase 'cut down'?

Ans. (a) The speaker enquires if the sweet things have been cut down because these were spoiling Tricki's health and he needed to be put on a strict diet.

(b) The phrase 'cut down' means 'to reduce the quantity of something'.

2 I tried to sound severe: "Now! really mean this. If you don't cut his food right down and give him more exercise he is going to be really ill. You must harden your heart and keep him on a very strict diet". CBSE 2014

- (a) Why did the speaker try to sound severe?
(b) For whom was the advice given and why?

Ans. (a) The speaker tried to sound severe to make Mrs Pumphrey take his advice seriously and act on it.

(b) The advice was given for Tricki because he had become obese and listless. He was unwell

and the speaker wanted him to be on a strict diet.

3 As I moved off, Mrs Pumphrey, with a despairing cry, threw an armful of the little coats through the window. I looked in the mirror before I turned the corner of the drive; everybody was in tears.

- (a) Where was the speaker going and with whom?
(b) Why was everybody in tears?

Ans. (a) The speaker was going to the hospital with Tricki.

(b) Everybody was in tears because Tricki was being hospitalised as he was ill. Everyone was worried about his health.

4 "Poor old lad", I said. "You haven't a kick in you but I think I know a cure for you". CBSE 2012

- (a) Why does the speaker say "poor old lad"?
(b) What cure did the speaker know?

Ans. (a) The speaker addresses Tricki as a poor old lad because he is unwell and listless.

(b) The speaker knew that the cure for Tricki's illness is to put him on a strict diet.

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

[2 Marks each]

1 Why was Dr Herriot really worried about Tricki?

Ans. Dr Herriot was really worried about Tricki's health. When he saw the dog with his mistress, Mrs Pumphrey, he was shocked at his appearance.

The dog had become hugely fat. His eyes were red and his tongue was hanging out. Such a miserable condition of the dog really worried the surgeon.

2 What 'extra' did Mrs Pumphrey start to give Tricki and why?

Ans. Mrs Pumphrey thought that Tricki was suffering from malnutrition, as he was weak and dull. So, she started to give him extra food like cod-liver oil

and malt between the main meals and Horlicks after dinner to make him sleep. She also gave him cream cakes and chocolates.

3 What was the only fault of Tricki as diagnosed by Dr Herriot? Why did he say so?

or What was the major flaw in Tricki?

CBSE 2020

Ans. Dr Herriot diagnosed that the only fault of Tricki for his health condition was his greed for food.

The surgeon says so because he knew that the pampering of Tricki's owner, Mrs Pumphrey created problems for the dog.

4 "You must harden your heart and help him in a strict diet." Why does Mr Herriot suggest this to Mrs Pumphrey?

Ans. Mr. Herriot suggested Mrs Pumphrey to be strict with Tricki because he knew about Mrs Pumphrey's love for her pet. The surgeon is aware that even though she tries to follow the diet prescribed for Tricki, she would be unable to refuse anything. Her love and care had harmed her dog and thus Dr Herriot suggests Mrs Pumphrey to reduce his diet.

5 What made James Herriot expect a call from Mrs Pumphrey? **CBSE 2015**

Ans. James Herriot's encounter with Mrs Pumphrey and Tricki's condition made him expect a call for help. He was sure that the extra diet and no physical activity would soon put Tricki's health in danger.

6 What made Mrs Pumphrey call the vet?

Ans. Tricki's condition made Mrs Pumphrey call the vet for help. Tricki had become fat and lazy. He just used to lie on his rug everytime. He also refused to eat food, even his favourite dishes and had been vomiting. So, Mrs Pumphrey called James Herriot (the vet) so that her dog could get a proper medical treatment.

7 How did Mrs Pumphrey and her servants behave when Tricki was being taken away to the surgery?

Ans. Mrs Pumphrey started crying upon realising that Tricki was being taken away to the surgery. All the servants were woken up. They rushed in and out carrying all the things that Tricki would need after hospitalisation. These things included beds, cushions, toys, bowls, coats etc.

8 How can you say that it was hard for Mrs Pumphrey to part with her doting pet?

Ans. It was hard for Mrs Pumphrey to part with her doting pet because Tricki was like her child. She loved him very much and would do everything to please her dog. So, when the surgeon suggested its hospitalisation, it was a terrible and tearful moment for her, however she agreed for the betterment of her pet.

9 The household dogs at the surgery rejected Tricki as an 'uninteresting object'. Why?

Ans. When Tricki arrived at the surgery, he was rejected by the household dogs as an 'uninteresting object' because of his laziness. As he entered the surgery, the other dogs surrounded Tricki and sniffed him, but Tricki did not give any response. Thus, they found him dull and uninterested.

10 Do you think Tricki was enjoying his stay at the hospital? **CBSE 2011**

Ans. Yes, Tricki was definitely enjoying his stay at the hospital. He had befriended the gang of hairy household dogs.

He had found a new joy in being bowled over (pushed), trampled on and squashed. He had also become very energetic. He used to play and run all day long with the dogs. He was having a great time.

11 What kind of treatment was given to Tricki? Did it help in his recovery?

Or "I think I know a cure for you." What was the 'cure' given to Tricki?

Ans. Tricki was given a non-medicinal treatment. His diet was changed depending upon his body's response to it. He was kept on water for the first two days and then his diet was gradually increased.

Yes, this treatment did help Tricki as it built up energy in him and transformed him into an energetic dog in just a fortnight.

12 Briefly describe Herriot's days of content.

Or How did lunch become a 'ceremonial occasion' for Mr Herriot and his partners'?

Ans. The time of Tricki's stay at the hospital was a period of content for Herriot. He used to enjoy the treat that arrived in the name of Tricki, as he could not afford all this for himself. Herriot used to relish the fresh eggs in breakfast, wine before and during lunch and brandy in the night.

13 Was Tricki suffering from any ailment in reality? If not, then what made him inactive and lethargic? **CBSE 2019**

Ans. No, Tricki was not suffering from any ailment. It was his greed for food and the love of his mistress that spoilt his health to such an extent. He was being overfed everyday and that made him fat and lazy.

14 How do you know that Tricki had an affluent life?

Ans. We know that Tricki had an affluent life because he was a loved and pampered pet of a wealthy owner, Mrs Pumphrey. Mrs Pumphrey made sure that her pet had everything he may need or require. He not only had a complete wardrobe of coats but also separate bowls for food. He also had many toys, cushions and rubber rings. All these luxury items show that he lived a well-off life.

15 Why is Mrs Pumphrey responsible for Tricki's condition? **CBSE 2020**

Ans. Mrs Pumphrey was responsible for Tricki's condition because of her overindulgent behaviour. She did not cut down on Tricki's food and did not provide him with proper exercises, even after Tricki's doctor's advice. Instead, she used to feed him extra food as she felt that Tricki was suffering from malnutrition. As a result, Tricki's condition deteriorated.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

[8 Marks each]

1 Excess of everything is bad. Comment in the wake of Mrs Pumphrey's love for Tricki.

Or Mrs. Pumphrey, the overindulgent and caring mistress of Tricki, pampers her pet dog like a spoiled child. Comment. **CBSE 2020**

Ans. It is true that excess of everything is bad. It does more harm than good. This fact has aptly been justified in the story "A Triumph of Surgery" wherein Mrs Pumphrey, a rich lady over pampers her dog, Tricki. She wants Tricki to live as luxuriously as she lives. To make sure that her dog lives a lavish life, she not only makes sure that Tricki has everything but also fulfils his greed. Her love and care for Tricki makes her overfeed him. She feeds him extra food in between his main meals and does not reduce sweets like cream cakes and chocolates.

In her love for Tricki, she never realised that Tricki was a greedy dog and her over-caring nature would harm him. Even though the surgeon prescribes her a diet for Tricki, she was not able to follow it. Consequently, Tricki's condition gets worse. He becomes lazy, inactive and very fat.

Tricki's excessive diet spoilt his health to such an extent that he had to be hospitalised. Mrs Pumphrey's fondness and care for Tricki leads her to provide excess of food for her dog, even in the

hospital. This shows that excess of everything can be harmful.

2 Dr. James Herriot was a competent veterinary surgeon. His practical approach and common sense helped in the rapid recovery of Tricki. Comment.

Or Pen down incidences in support of values one should inculcate from Mr James Herriot. **CBSE 2015**

Ans. Dr James Herriot was a capable veterinary surgeon who treated Tricki. He was a compassionate doctor and a wise and sympathetic human being. He showed his capabilities almost immediately when he advised Mrs Pumphrey to put Tricki on a strict diet after understanding his symptoms.

Dr Herriot was also an understanding and tactful person as he knew exactly how to free Tricki from the spoiling love of Mrs Pumphrey.

He does not operate upon the dog unnecessarily and adopted a practical approach to treat him. His method worked and soon Tricki was transformed into an energetic dog. Mr James was a caring and polite individual as he successfully tackles Mrs Pumphrey's anxiety about Tricki's recovery patiently.

Dr. Herriot was not only a sincere doctor but was also a good natured man. He knew that the things sent by Mrs Pumphrey could not be given to Tricki. So, without hurting her feelings, he kept the food items and consumed them on his own.

So, one can inculcate the habits and characteristics of Mr James Herriot as he was an animal lover and knew that over pampering could make someone idle and dull. He loved his profession and treated his patient with due care and attention.

- 3** Do you think parents like Mrs Pumphrey exist? If yes, is it a good thing to pamper children? Why or why not? **CBSE 2012**

Ans. Yes, parents like Mrs Pumphrey definitely exist. Such people spoil their children by making sure that all

their demands are met. They not only feed them junk but also spoil their social habits in the name of giving them love and care. This kind of behaviour is very harmful for children. Such overprotective parental behaviour also hinders their growth as adults.

In fact, it develops greed and dependency in them. They become stubborn and do not learn to value anything. For them, hard work is a myth as they get everything easily.

Over pampered children often fail to face the hardships of life later, as for them life has been simple. So, pampering children in moderation is healthy, but excess of it is harmful. It is not just bad for humans but also for animals, as we see in the story 'A Triumph of Surgery'.

Self Assessment

Extract Based Question

Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow.

- 1** All the while, Mrs Pumphrey hovered anxiously in the background, ringing a dozen times a day for the latest bulletins.
- Why was Mrs Pumphrey anxious?
 - What does the narrator mean by the latest bulletin?

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

- Do you think Mrs Pumphrey should have changed her way of caring for Tricki? Why or why not?
- How did Mrs Pumphrey show her concern for Tricki when he was at the surgery?

Long Answer (LA) Type Question

- Relishing the eggs, wine and brandy that Mrs Pumphrey sent for Tricki was not right on the part of Mr James Herriot. It portrays him as a greedy and materialistic man. Do you agree? Give reasons in support of your answer. Also state the values you can draw from his character.
- Tricki was more than a dog. He was more like a member of the Pumphrey family. Elaborate.

20

The Thief's Story

by Ruskin Bond

Chapter Overview

The story highlights how kindness, compassion and trust can change even criminals. In the story, a 15 year old thief named Hari Singh, undergoes a changes when he meets Anil, a 25 year old writer. Anil's unspoken words and kind gestures leaves a very positive impact on Hari Singh's life. As a result, Hari could not rob Anil as he had planned. He realised the importance of education and became a better man under Anil's company.

About the Characters

Hari Singh (The Narrator) He is a 15 year old, experienced thief. He is keen on learning how to read and write.
Anil He is a 25 year old, tall and lean man who earns his living by writing. He is a kind, simple and an easy-going person.

Summary

Hari Singh (The Narrator) Approaches Anil

The narrator met Anil, when he was a 15 years old thief. Hari approached Anil while he was watching a wrestling match. Anil was a tall, thin, easy going and simple type of man. The narrator thought that Anil could be an easy target for him to rob.

The narrator used some flattering words to gain Anil's confidence and soon they started conversing. He lied to Anil that his name was Hari Singh. The narrator changed his name every month to hide himself from police and his former employers. After this introduction, they talked about wrestlers and then Anil walked away.

Hari Follows Anil

When Anil started to walk off, Hari followed him and told him that he wanted to work for him. To this, Anil expressed his inability to pay Hari. Then Hari questioned Anil if he could feed him. Anil told Hari that he would employ him only if Hari knew how to cook. Hari lied that he knew how to cook and was employed.

Anil Brings Hari to his Room

Anil took Hari to his room which was located over Jumna sweet shop. He also told Hari that he could sleep in the balcony. Anil gave that night's food to a stray dog because the food cooked by Hari was terrible.

Anil had realised that Hari didn't know how to cook. He asked Hari to leave, but Hari stayed there, with his most appealing smile. Anil patted Hari's head and told him that he would teach him how to cook.

Anil Teaches Hari to Read and Write

Apart from cooking, Anil also taught Hari to write his name and promised to teach him how to write whole sentences and to add numbers. Hari was happy and grateful for getting educated as he knew that he could do something once he could write like an educated man. Hari enjoyed working for Anil.

Anil made tea in the morning and later he would go to buy Hari's supplies. He would also make a profit of a rupee which he knew Anil did not mind.

Anil's Work

Anil had no regular income. He made money by contributing articles to the magazines. Sometimes he would have enough money to celebrate and sometimes he had to borrow money.

Hari Gained Anil's Trust

One evening, Anil came back with a bundle of currency notes which he had earned by selling his book to a publisher.

That night, Anil put the money under his mattress and Hari noticed it. Hari had been working for Anil for almost a month and had gained Anil's trust.

Anil had given the key of the room to Hari. For Hari, this was the opportunity to rob Anil. However, due to Anil's trust, it was a difficult task for Hari to rob Anil. But he got away these thoughts and decided to rob Anil that night.

Hari Robbed Anil

That night, Hari crawled up to the bed when Anil was asleep. He slid his hand under the mattress and drew the money out quietly. He rushed out of the room and began to run on the road. He had secured the money with the string of his pyjama.

WORD MEANINGS

The given page nos. correspond to the pages in the prescribed textbook.

Word	Meaning
Page 8	
fairly successful	reasonably successful in my work
lean	Thin in a healthy and attractive way
easy-going	relaxed and open-minded
late	recently
got into ... confidence	win the young man's trust
flattery	insincere praise
got me off	distracted me
modestly	without boasting; humbly

Word	Meaning
ahead of	undetected by
grunting	making a short, low sound usually because of anger or pain
appealing	attractive
Page 9	
be off	go away
hung around	did not leave
Page 10	
by fits and starts	irregularly
cheque	payment for work done
queer	strange, unusual or not expected

Word	Meaning
crept	moved in a quiet, careful way to avoid being noticed
unlined	showing no sign of worry or anxiety
fifties	50 rupee notes
Page 11	
deserted	empty of people
Page 12	
heart sank	felt disappointed and discouraged
spirits rose	mood became happy

He was running towards the railway station to catch 10.30 Express to Lucknow as he had planned. When he counted the money, he was happy to find 600 rupees.

Hari didn't Board the Train

Hari reached the station just when the train was moving out. He could have jumped to get into one of the carriages but he did not catch the train and stood alone on the platform. He did not know where to go as he had no friends except Anil.

Hari's Confused Feelings

Hari decided to leave the station and thought about how would Anil feel when he would come to know about the theft. Soon, he reached the maidan. It was November and it had started raining.

In the excitement of theft, Hari forgot that apart from giving him some money, Anil also educated him. He realised that education would have made him into a big, clever and respected man. He understood that it was easy to steal but it was difficult to be respected like Anil.

Hari's Final Decision

Finally, Hari decided to go back to Anil. He went back into the room and cautiously put back the wet currency notes under the mattress and went to sleep.

Anil Reacted Normally in the Morning

Hari woke up late in the morning. He found that Anil had already prepared tea. Anil gave a fifty rupee note to Hari which was still wet. He told Hari that he had earned some money by selling a book to a publisher and now would be able to pay him regularly.

He also told Hari that they would start writing sentences from that day. Hari felt that Anil knew about the theft but he didn't say anything to him about it.

NCERT FOLDER

(Here we have covered questions given in the NCERT textbook along with their answers.)

Read and Find Out (Pages 8 and 10)

1 Who does 'I' refer to in this story?

Ans. 'I' refers to Hari Singh, the narrator of the story who is a 15 year old experienced thief.

2 What is he "a fairly successful hand" at?

Ans. He is 'a fairly successful hand' at stealing. He is an experienced thief. He is so clean and cautious in his work that he robs people without being caught.

3 What does he get from Anil in return for his work?

Ans. In return of Hari Singh's work, Anil gives him food and a place to live.

4 How does the thief think Anil will react to the theft?

Ans. According to Hari, Anil would be sad not because of the loss of money but because of the loss of trust he had in Hari.

5 What does he say about the different reactions of people when they are robbed?

Ans. Hari's experience at theft had made him aware of the differences in reactions of people when they're robbed. According to him, a greedy man shows fear, a rich man shows anger and a poor man shows acceptance.

6 Does Anil realise that he has been robbed?

Ans. Yes, Anil realised that he had been robbed. He would have noticed it because all the notes that he kept were wet the next morning. He also knew that it had rained the previous night so it was likely that somebody had taken the notes out.

Think About It (Page 13)

1 What are Hari Singh's reactions at the prospect of receiving an education? Do they change overtime? (*Hint: Compare, for example, the thought: "I knew that once I could write like an educated man there would be no limit to what I could achieve" with these later thoughts: "Whole sentences, I knew, could one day bring me more than a few hundred rupees. It was a simple matter to steal- and sometimes just as simple to be caught. But to be a really big man, a clever*

and respected man, was something else.") What makes him return to Anil?

Ans. Hari was very happy and grateful when he learned to write his name. He was very excited when Anil promised to teach him to write whole sentences as well. He knew that being an educated man will add to his abilities and he could achieve unlimited material success.

Yes, Hari's reactions changed overtime. When he left Anil's house, he realised that stealing was simply a crime to indulge himself but being educated was an entirely different thing.

He knew the respect, reputation and possibilities that would come to him once he was educated. The realisation to receive education and earn respect compelled him to return money to Anil.

2 Why does Anil not hand the thief over to the police? Do you think most people would have done so? In what ways is Anil different from such employers?

Ans. Anil does not handover Hari to the police on theft charges. He knew about the theft but he did not thrash him nor even mentioned it in front of Hari. He was glad that Hari had realised his mistake and the importance of education in life. Anil wanted Hari to become a literate man and lead a respectful life.

Unlike Anil, most people would have beaten up Hari Singh or would have handed him to the police for stealing the money.

Anil is different from other such employers because he is very understanding. Hari's return gave him the hope of a change in the thief. Anil wishes to reform the young thief through love and sympathy.

Talk About It (Page 13)

1 Do you think people like Anil and Hari Singh are found only in fiction, or are there such people in real life?

Ans. People like Anil and Hari Singh are found only in fiction and not in real life. Unlike Anil, most people would have either beaten up the thief or would have handed him to the police. These people are rarely found in today's world.

Anil was a kind and considerate person who was concerned about Hari's education and future while Hari was a thief whose heart changes after realising the importance of education for his future. In the present world, such people are only found in imaginary stories or novels.

2 Do you think it is a significant detail in the story that Anil is a struggling writer? Does this explain his behaviour in any way?

Ans. Yes, it is a significant detail that Anil is a struggling writer. He had no regular source of income. Consequently, he used to spend according to his pocket, when he had money he would celebrate and when he didn't have money, he borrowed it. This fact somewhere explains the kindness and sympathy with which he treats Hari. His condition is to some extent similar to Hari. Just like Hari, he also struggles to get proper meals. He understands Hari's condition and thus helps Hari.

3 Have you met anyone like Hari Singh? Can you think and imagine the circumstances that can turn a fifteen-year-old boy into a thief?

Ans. No, I haven't met anyone like Hari Singh. But I am sure about the existence of such people who win someone's confidence and then cheat that person. Hari Singh is a 15 year old boy who had been a thief since long. There can be many reasons for him entering such a profession. It can be due to poverty or illiteracy. He may be an orphan who had never been to school and thus, have become a thief.

4 Where is the story set? (You can get clues from the names of the persons and places mentioned in it). Which language or languages are spoken in these places? Do you think the characters in the story spoke to each other in English?

Ans. The story is set somewhere in Uttar Pradesh near Lucknow. We can say so because the story mentions that there is a railway station for Express train to Lucknow. The presence of sweet shops and bazaars also indicate it to be a decent-sized town. Hindi is mostly spoken in these places.

No, the characters in the story do not speak to each other in English but probably in Hindi.

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Exam Practice

Extract Based Questions

[2 Marks each]

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1 "You look a bit of a wrestler yourself". I said A little flattery helps in making friends.

(a) Who was the speaker? Who was he trying to flatter?

(b) Why did the speaker want to be friends with the listener?

Ans. (a) Hari Singh was the speaker and he was trying to flatter Anil.

(b) The speaker wanted to be friends with the listener because he wanted to rob him after gaining his trust.

2 Well, it's time I did some real work, I told myself; I'm out of practice. CBSE 2013

(a) What 'real work' is the speaker talking about?

(b) Why does the speaker say 'I'm out of practice'?

Ans. (a) The 'real work' in the extract refers to stealing.

(b) The speaker says so because he is a thief and he has not robbed anyone recently.

3 When the train had gone, I found myself standing alone on the deserted platform. I had

no idea where to spend the night. I had no friends. CBSE 2014

(a) Why was the speaker standing alone on the platform?

(b) Why did he not have any friends?

Ans. (a) The speaker was standing alone on the platform because a train had just left.

(b) The speaker did not have any friends because he thought that friends were more trouble than help.

4 He knew. But neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything.

(a) Who is 'he' in the extract? What did he know?

(b) Why did he not show anything?

Ans. (a) 'He' refers to Anil in the extract. He knew about the theft of his money.

(b) Anil did not show anything because he was understanding and Hari's return gave him the hope of a change in him.

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

[2 Marks each]

1 Why did Hari Singh approach Anil?

Ans. Hari Singh was a thief. He approached Anil with the intention of robbing him, as he seemed to be an easy-going and simple man who could be an easy target for the young thief.

2 'Anil walked away. I followed casually'. Why do you think the narrator followed Anil?

Ans. The narrator's purpose of robbing Anil had not yet been fulfilled. So he followed Anil to gain his trust and to look for an opportunity that may help him give shape to his plans.

3 What did Anil and Hari agree upon to be the mode of payment? CBSE 2015

Ans. When Anil expressed his inability to pay Hari, he questioned Anil if he could feed him. Anil told Hari that he could feed him only if he knew how to cook.

Therefore, food and a place to live were agreed upon as the mode of payment to Hari to work for Anil.

4 Did Hari like working for Anil? Give reasons in support of your answer. CBSE 2014

Ans. Yes, Hari liked working for Anil. He made tea in the morning and would go to buy day's supplies. He would also make a profit of a rupee by his work. Apart from the work, he was also grateful for getting educated by Anil.

5 In which queer way did Anil make a living? CBSE 2018

Ans. Anil made a living by writing articles for magazines, which seemed queer to Hari, because the money was not earned by Anil on a regular basis.

6 Why was it difficult for Hari to rob Anil?

Ans. It was difficult for Hari to rob Anil because Anil was the most trusting person Hari had ever met. He was really simple and kind. Hari knew that loss of money would not affect Anil but the loss of trust would make him sad.

7 State the events that took place on the night of the theft. CBSE 2016

Ans. After stealing Anil's money and leaving Anil's house, Hari went to the railway station but didn't board the train to Lucknow. He walked slowly through the bazaar as he did not know anyone or had any friends who would provide him shelter except Anil. He was forced to take shelter under the clock tower later when it started raining heavily.

8 Was Hari Singh successful in robbing Anil? Was Anil the only one who was robbed or did Hari also rob himself of something?

Ans. Yes, Hari Singh was successful in robbing Anil. But Anil was not the only one who was robbed at that time. Hari had robbed himself as well. He had lost the chance of receiving education and being literate.

Hari had robbed Anil monetarily but he had also robbed himself of the chance for a better and brighter future, which was much more valuable.

9 What made Hari Singh go back to Anil's house? CBSE 2020

Ans. Hari Singh decided to go back to Anil's house because he realised the importance of the education he was receiving from Anil. He knew that learning how to write and being a literate person would open doors to many opportunities. He was sure that he would then be able to earn more than a few hundred rupees he had in hand at that time.

10 How was the morning after the night of the theft?

Ans. The morning after the night of the theft was just like a normal one except for the fact that Hari woke up late and Anil had made tea for him.

Anil gave a fifty rupee note to Hari and told him that he would now be paid regularly. Hari felt that Anil knew about the theft but he didn't show anything.

11 How do you think Anil may have come to know about the theft?

Ans. Anil may have come to know about the theft because of the wetness of the notes. He was a kind but wise man. It wouldn't have been difficult for Anil to make out the series of events that would have taken place in the night.

12 Had Anil really forgiven Hari Singh? Support your answer with evidence. CBSE 2012

Ans. Yes, Anil had forgiven Hari Singh. It is evident because Anil handed over to Hari a fifty rupee note as soon as Hari woke up. Though he knew that Hari had robbed the money at first but his subsequent actions gave him hope of change in Hari's character.

13 How was Hari Singh's 'appealing smile' at the end different from his similar smiles on earlier occasions?

Ans. Hari Singh's 'appealing smile' at the end is different from his similar smiles on earlier occasions. Earlier, his smiles were fake and artificial. They were full of flattery that aimed to fulfill his goal. But in the end, his smile was real, it was natural and appealing.

14 Describe Hari Singh, the young and successful thief.

Ans. Hari Singh or the narrator of the story is a 15 year old boy who claims to have gained a lot of experience as well as expertise in the field of theft. He knew how to find easy victims and used his knowledge to get close to them. He was also clever enough to avoid the police and his former employers by changing his name every month.

15 Why does Anil not hand Hari Singh over to the police? CBSE 2020

Ans. Anil does not handover Hari to the police on theft charges. He knew about the theft but he did not thrash him nor even mentioned it in front of Hari. He was glad that Hari had realised his mistake and the importance of education in life. Anil wanted Hari to become a literate man and lead a respectful life.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

[8 Marks each]

1 Money can't Make a man as much as education can. Elucidate the statement with reference to "A thief's story." CBSE 2013

Ans. The statement "money can't make a man as much as education can". Stands true in almost all the aspects of life. Money may buy us all the luxuries and fulfill our needs but it cannot buy us knowledge, civilised thinking, skills and abilities to achieve our dreams. Education lays the platform for all to act upon our goals according to our abilities. It enables us to keep up with the fast moving world and that opens the door to opportunities we do not know exist.

Money, on the other hand, can assist us to a certain level. It can buy us a plan but education gives us the knowledge of its execution.

In the story, "The Thief's story" Hari Singh, a young thief realises the importance of education. He meets a struggling writer Anil who allows him to work for him. Anil teaches Hari to write. Hari who had befriended Anil to rob him of money, returns back because he understands that education will make him a big, clever and a respected man. He accepts that with education, he would be able to earn much more than what he had robbed.

2 Hari Singh didn't board the express and returned to Anil. It shows that everyone was some conscience that they do not put in practice. Elaborate with reference to 'The Thief's story'.

Ans. Everyone has an inner conscience that tells them about right or wrong. It fills one with guilt when one does something wrong and delights one when something right happens. In the story 'The Thiefs story', the narrator's/Hari's conscience is pricked as he robs the honest and kind man, him.

He works for Anil with a purpose of looking for an opportunity to rob him, but during his stay with his master he not only learns about love, sympathy and trust but also understands the importance of education.

Even though Anil knows that Hari keeps one rupee as profit from his daily routines, he never asks Hari for it and teaches him to write. When Hari robs Anil, he states that it is difficult for him to rob Anil but it is much difficult for him to run away after robbing Anil.

He has a guilty conscience. He does not want to hurt Anil and wants to change himself. This does not only force him to return the money but also makes him want to get educated.

The inner conscience which came forward in Hari had been dormant (hidden) before he had stolen Anil's money. Just like Hari did not put it into practice, many people ignore it. It is the circumstances that awaken the inner conscience and put it into practice.

3 Education, love and sympathy can transform even a thief. How is it true in the case of Hari Singh? CBSE 2020

Ans. A man is essentially a product of the circumstances and the environment that he lives in. Hari Singh was a boy of just fifteen but was an experience thief who had a fairly successful hand in his profession. It was his circumstances that led him into such a profession which he retained even while he lived with Anil. He went to live with Anil with a purpose of robbing him and was even successful in doing so.

However, Anil was not a fool. He knew about Hari's act of theft but did not hand over Hari to the police. It was his care, love and sympathy that affected Hari so much so that he could not run away after robbing Anil. Anil's compassion and kind-heartedness brought about a change in Hari.

Further, Anil taught Hari how to read and write. The prospect of education created a deep impression on Hari's mind. He realised that with education he would not only be able to earn money but will also become a respected man.

Hence, it is true that education, love and sympathy can transform even a thief like Hari Singh.

Self Assessment

Extract Based Question

Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow.

- 1 I slowed down to a walk and counted the notes: 600 rupees in fifties! I could live like an oil-rich Arab for a week or two.
- (a) Where did the speaker get the money from?
- (b) Where was the speaker headed to?

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

- 2 What encouraged Hari Singh to make Anil his next prey?
- 3 What different shortcomings of Hari Singh did Anil ignore?

Long Answer (LA) Type Question

- 4 'But neither his lips nor his eyes showed anything'. Anil did not show that he knew about the theft. What kind of a person do you think Anil was? Also throw light on the virtues you learn from his character.

Footprints Without Feet

by HG Wells



Chapter Overview

The story is an extract from the novel named 'the invisible man'. It centres around a brilliant scientist, Griffin who had discovered how to make himself invisible. The story narrates certain episodes of how Griffin had misused his discovery for his own benefit.

About the Characters

Griffin He is the brilliant scientist who makes himself invisible. He does not hesitate to resort to criminal activities to remain a mystery.

Mrs Hall She is a resolute but superstitious owner of the inn at Iping where Griffin stays.

Mr Jaffers He is a dutiful policeman who fails to arrest the 'invisible' scientist.

Summary

Boys See Footprints on a Street

Two boys on a street in London were surprised to see fresh muddy footprints of bare feet on the steps of a house. As they were still gazing (looking carefully), fresh footmark appeared. This fascinated the boys as they couldn't find the person making them and they followed the footmarks. However, the footprints soon disappeared.

Mystery of the Footprints

The footprints had been made by Griffin, an eccentric (strange) scientist who had discovered how to make his body invisible or transparent. He had conducted many experiments to prove that the human body could become invisible. Finally, he swallowed some drugs that made his body transparent and solid as a sheet of glass.

Griffin : A Lawless Scientist

Griffin was a great scientist, but a lawless person. His landlord did not like him and tried to evict (throw out) him from the house. So, Griffin set fire to his landlord's house.

To escape from this situation, Griffin removed his clothes and became invisible. Later, he became a homeless wanderer in London without any clothes and money.

Hidden in a Big London Store

Griffin managed to escape from the observation of the two keen boys. As the weather was bitterly cold in London, Griffin decided to slip into a big London store for warmth. The store was closed at night, Griffin wore some warm clothes, shoes, an overcoat and a hat.

He ate cold meat and drank some coffee from the kitchen of the restaurant. He even had some sweets and wine from the grocery store and then went to sleep on a pile of quilts (blankets).

Griffin is Invisible Again

When Griffin woke up next morning, the shop assistants had already started to arrive at the shop. On being seen, Griffin panicked and started running. As he was being chased, he again took off his newly found clothes. Consequently, he found himself invisible and naked in the chill again.

Griffin at a Theatrical Company

Griffin decided to try the goods of a theatrical company. So, he reached Drury Lane and entered into a shop that sold theatrical items.

A little later, he came out wearing bandages, dark glasses, a false nose, big bushy whiskers and a large hat. Then, he attacked the shopkeeper and also robbed his money.

Griffin Arrives at Iping Village

After robbing the shopkeeper, Griffin left London and took a train to the village of Iping. Here, he booked two rooms in an inn belonging to Mr. Hall.

Mrs Hall (the landlord's wife) tried to be friendly with Griffin. However, Griffin told her that he had an accident and did not want to be disturbed. Mrs Hall excused his strange behaviour as he had paid her in advance.

Burglary at Clergyman's House

Soon the money that Griffin had stolen from theatrical company was finished. So he robbed a clergyman's house. Very early in the morning the clergyman and his wife were disturbed by some sounds. They heard the chink (a sound) of money being taken away from the desk. The clergyman silently opened the door and warned the thief to surrender. However, he was shocked to find that nobody was there and the money was missing.

Furniture shows Strange Behaviour

On the same day, when Mrs Hall found Griffin's room open, with his bandages and clothes lying around, she and her husband entered the room. Suddenly, Mrs Hall heard a sniff and the hat near the bedpost was thrown on her face. Then, the bedroom chair was thrown at her legs. Both the landlord and his wife were pushed out of the room. Mrs Hall felt that the furniture was haunted by spirits (ghosts), as she could not see Griffin.

Griffin is Suspected

Mrs Hall blamed Griffin for the strange events while the neighbours blamed witchcraft (black magic). Soon, the news of burglary at clergyman's house was spread. Most people in the village felt that the strange scientist was involved in it, because he paid his due rent, whereas earlier he was not able to do so. As a result, the village police constable Mr Jaffers was called.

Griffin becomes Invisible

Mrs Hall went to Griffin and enquired what he had been doing with her chair in the room. She also enquired that how did he came out of an empty room and entered a locked room.

Griffin lost his temper and decided to show her everything. He threw off his bandages, spectacles, whiskers and his nose. People who had gathered were horrified to see the headless man.

Griffin Escapes from Iping

When constable Jaffers had arrived, he was surprised to know that he had to arrest a man without a head. Yet, he tried to catch him. Griffin removed all that he was wearing to become invisible.

The constable was trying to catch a man he couldn't see. Some people tried to help Jaffers but were hit by a blow they could not see. Soon Jaffers was knocked unconscious and Griffin ran away.

WORD MEANINGS

The given page nos. correspond to the pages in the prescribed textbook.

Word	Meaning
Page 26	
started	jumped
imprints	marks due to pressure
progressing	moving
impressions	footmarks
bewildered	puzzled
rare drugs	chemicals/medicines not easily available
eject	remove
Page 27	
by no means	not yet
pile	objects positioned one on top of another

Word	Meaning
Page 28	
stock	items
callously	unfeelingly
set all tongues wagging	to do something that people will talk or guess about your private life.
eccentric	strange
clergyman	Christian priest
chink	high pitched ringing sound
poker	metal rod
flung open	suddenly opened
Page 29	
sniff	sound made by nose drawing in air
bedpost	an upright support of a bed

Word	Meaning
dashed	struck
springing	jumping
foremost	first
slam	quickly close
hysterics	a wildly emotional reaction
witchcraft	the practice of magic, especially for evil purposes
Page 30	
quick-tempered	losing temper quickly
warrant	official authorisation
Page 31	
blows	powerful hits with the hands
knocked	to hit forcefully and cause to move or fall

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NCERT FOLDER

Here we have covered questions given in the NCERT textbook along with their answers.

Read and Find Out (Page 26)

- How did the invisible man first become visible?
Ans. The invisible man first became visible after he had stepped on mud which made his footprints visible on the steps of a house in London. These footprints were noticed by two boys who followed them till they disappeared.

- Why was he wandering the streets?
Ans. He was wandering down the streets because he had set his landlord's house on fire to take his revenge for trying to evict him and had nowhere to go.

Read and Find Out (Page 28)

- Why does Mrs Hall find the scientist (the new guest) eccentric?
CBSE 2020
Ans. Mrs Hall found the scientist eccentric because of his strange behaviour. When she tried to be friendly with him, he rejected her by telling her that he had come there for peace and did not want to be disturbed in his work.

- What curious episode occurs in the study?
or Describe the curious episode which took place in a clergyman's study.
CBSE 2020
Ans. The curious episode occurred in the study of the clergyman's house. Very early one morning the clergyman and his wife heard noises coming from their study. They heard the sound of money being taken. However, when they entered the study, nobody could be found but the money was stolen.
- What other extraordinary things happen at the inn?
Ans. Many extraordinary things happened at the inn with Mrs Hall and her husband. One day Early in morning they found the scientist's door to be open and went inside, while there was nobody in the room. Suddenly, Mrs Hall heard a sniff. Soon a hat kept on the bedpost was thrown on her face. Then a chair was thrown at her legs and it pushed both Mrs Hall and his husband out of the room. This made Mrs. Hall think that the furniture was haunted.

Think About It (Page 31)

1 "Griffin was rather a lawless person." Comment.

Ans. Griffin was a brilliant scientist but he was a lawless person. After becoming invisible because of his experiment, he not only set his landlord's house on fire but also robbed a theatrical shop in London. Later in Iping, he robbed the clergyman and also hit the villagers including Mrs. Hall, her husband, constable Jaffers, etc.

With his criminal bent of mind, he used his invisibility for his own benefit.

2 How would you assess Griffin as a scientist?

Ans. Griffin was a brilliant scientist. His great capabilities come forward when he continuously conducts experiments to prove that the human body can become invisible. After a lot of efforts, he proves so by making himself invisible. However, his greatness is reduced because of his lawless actions. This discovery

could have been used to benefit the society but is only by him used for his own benefit.

Talk About It (Page 31)

1 Would you like to become invisible? What advantages and disadvantages do you foresee, if you did?

Ans. Yes, I would like to become invisible for some time. Becoming invisible can be an exciting idea for many people. Invisibility can have many advantages and disadvantages. For a child, invisibility may mean a licence for all kinds of pranks without getting caught. Like a Hindi movie, invisibility can help you beat all the villains and get rid of them. Once you become invisible, nobody would notice you.

However, the sadness of isolation will take over the excitement of being invisible. You will have no friend. You will tend to behave like the eccentric scientist in the story 'Footprints Without Feet'.

Exam Practice

Extract Based Questions**[2 Marks each]**

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1 As they gazed, a remarkable sight met their eyes. A fresh footmark appeared from nowhere!

Further footprints followed, one after another, descending the steps and progressing down the street.

(a) Who are 'they' in the above extract?

(b) Who is making these footprints?

Ans. (a) 'They' in the above extract are two boys on a street in London.

(b) The scientist Griffin, who has become invisible, is making these footprints.

2 The air was bitterly cold and he could not do without clothes. Instead of walking about the streets he decided to slip into a big London store for warmth.

(a) Who is 'he' in the above extract?

(b) Why was the air bitterly cold?

Ans. (a) 'He' in the above extract is Griffin, the invisible scientist.

(b) The air was bitterly cold because the season was mid-winter.

3 They naturally gave chase. In the end he was able to escape only by quickly taking off his

newly found clothes. So once more he found himself invisible but naked in the chill January air.

(a) Who are 'they' and 'he' referred to in the above extract?

(b) Why has the author used the phrase 'once more'?

Ans. (a) 'They' are the shop assistants and 'he' is the invisible scientist, Griffin.

(b) The author has used the phrase 'once more' because Griffin was naked before he had entered the large store, from where he had taken the 'newly found' clothes.

4 Suspicion grew even stronger when he suddenly produced some ready cash, though he had admitted not long before that he had no money. **CBSE 2014**

(a) Who is 'he' in the above extract?

(b) What was 'he' suspected for?

Ans. (a) 'He' in the above extract is Griffin, the invisible scientist.

(b) 'He' was suspected for having a role in the burglary at the clergyman's home.

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions**[2 Marks each]**

1 Why were the two boys in London surprised and fascinated?

or What made the boys follow Griffin? **CBSE 2020**

Ans. The two boys in London were surprised and fascinated by the fresh muddy footprints they saw at the steps of a house. When they followed the footprints (Griffin), they were shocked to see that footprints were appearing but there was no man around the place.

2 Why did Griffin decide to slip into a big London store? **CBSE 2011**

Ans. Griffin decided to slip into a big London store to get warm. It was mid-winter season and the weather was chilly. Hence it became difficult for him to wander around without clothes in London.

3 How did Griffin find himself invisible but naked in the chill January air for the second time? **CBSE 2019**

Ans. Griffin finds himself invisible but naked in the chill January air for the second time when two attendants of the London store discovered Griffin hiding in their store and tried to chase him. Hence, in order to protect himself, he threw away all his clothes and became invisible again.

4 What did Griffin do in the shop of a theatrical company? **CBSE 2012**

Ans. In the shop of a theatrical company, the invisible Griffin dressed himself to become visible. He wore bandages, sunglasses, whiskers and a fake nose. Also to avoid being seen, he attacked the shopkeeper and robbed all the money that he could find.

5 Why did the landlady, Mrs Hall try to be fiendly and prepared to excuse Griffin's irritable habits?

Ans. Mrs Hall, the landlady of the inn where Griffin had booked his rooms was obliged to get an unexpected guest in the winter season. She tried to be friendly with her guest to make him comfortable but Griffin snubbed her. He plainly told her that he did not wanted to be disturbed. Such a behaviour was excused by Mrs Hall because Griffin had paid her in advance.

6 What did the Halls see in the scientist's room?

Ans. When the Halls found the scientist's room to be open, they decided to investigate the room. As they entered the room, they found that there was no one in the room and the bed was cold indicating that the scientist had been up for a long time. In addition, his clothes and the bandages were lying around the room.

7 How did the visible man become invisible? What did he do then?

CBSE 2014

Ans. The visible man became invisible because of his quick temper. He got furious at the constant questioning of

Mrs Hall. Consequently, he took off all the things he was wearing on his forehead to become a man without a head. Soon constable Jaffers came to arrest him. So he took off all the clothes he was wearing to become completely invisible. He knocked Mr Jaffers unconscious and escaped.

8 How and why did a brilliant scientist like Griffin degenerate into a lawless and homeless wanderer?

Ans. Griffin was a brilliant scientist who discovered invisibility of the human body. He first experimented on himself and became invisible which could have been used for the betterment of society.

However, he degenerated into a lawless and homeless wanderer. He not only became violent but also became a robber.

He conducted certain illegal activities by misusing his invisibility. His brilliance and greatness as a scientist was reduced as a consequence of his criminal activities.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

[8 Marks each]

1 Describe the landlord's and his wife's experience with the strange scientist.

CBSE 2016

Ans. The landlord and his wife had a very strange experience with the eccentric scientist. Once in an early morning, both of them were shocked to find the door of the scientist's room to be open. They knew that their guest did not like being disturbed and would normally keep the room locked. So they looked inside only to find that nobody was present in the room. As they entered the room to investigate it, they found that the bed was cold and the clothes and bandages that their guest regularly wore were lying about in the room.

Suddenly, Mrs Hall heard a sniff and soon the hat on the bedpost was thrown at her face. Then, the chair was thrown at her legs and it pushed Mrs Hall and her husband out of the room. The door was automatically shut and was locked.

These shocking turn of events made Mrs Hall hysterical. She almost fell down the stairs. She thought that her furniture was haunted and that the strange scientist was to be blamed for it.

2 "Griffin's unlawful activities devalue his scientific discovery." Comment.

or Was Griffin a true scientist in spite of his great discovery? Didn't he misuse his discovery for his petty gains and thefts rather than for the welfare of humanity?

or Griffin's great discovery did not make him a popular and respectable person. Explain with instances from the text. Was he a disaster for himself and for society?

or Discoveries of science can be used for the welfare of mankind as well as for its destruction. How is this applicable to Griffin's scientific discovery? Explain giving examples from the text. CBSE 2020

Ans. Griffin was a brilliant and a competent scientist. He discovered that the human body could become invisible and transparent as a result of long and constant experimentation. However, he was a lawless person. He misused his invisibility only for his personal gains. He committed thefts and beat innocent persons for his own benefits.

His great discovery could have made him popular and respectable. It would have earned him fame and respect. But he degenerated himself into a criminal. He became a disaster for himself as well as his society. He lacked respect for humanity and as a consequence became a homeless wanderer without any clothes or money.

As a result, Griffin's great discovery is reduced to nothing. His greatness and brilliance was lost with thefts but also material damage. His condition was such that he had to wander without clothes in middle of winter. In other words, instead of any popularity and respect, his great discovery brought him disrepute and dishonour.

3 If somehow you discovered how to become invisible, how would you use that opportunity?

CBSE 2015

Ans. If I discovered how to become invisible, I would use this opportunity to punish all those people who cause trouble to others for their own selfish motives. I would catch them and hand them over to the police without letting them know that I was behind them. I will also help the law-enforcing agencies when they conduct raids on criminal hideouts, as I will be able to move in the open without fear of being seen. This will help the people of the country to become more law-abiding citizens. We all should also realise this that if we are bestowed with a power, we have to follow some

duties and fulfill some responsibilities towards our society, our nation and the world. We all have to use those powers in other's welfare. A misuse of power can make us devil, while its proper and good use will definitely make us an angel or superhero in other's eyes. So, it is up to us to choose the right path.

4 How did Griffin's invisibility come to his help whenever he found himself in trouble?

Ans. Griffin was once a brilliant scientist who had worked hard to discover a drug (medicine) that could make a human body invisible and transparent. However, instead of using it for the welfare of the society, Griffin used his experiment to help him to commit petty crimes, thefts and burglaries. He became a lawless person hitting, beating and robbing innocent people. But his invisibility came to help whenever he caught himself in trouble or was in the danger of being caught and arrested.

The first time when his invisibility helped Griffin was when he lay asleep fully dressed on a pile of quilts in the big London store. When the employees of the store saw him, they panicked and ran away. When he was chased, he threw away all his clothes and saved himself as he has become completely invisible. Griffin's invisibility helped him rob not only a theater costume shop but also a clergyman in village Iping. Finally, when the village constable Jaffers came to arrest him, Griffin again became invisible. He, then, not only made the constable unconscious but also hit all those people who came to his help.

Self Assessment

Extract Based Questions

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

- 1 In the kitchen of the restaurant he found cold meat and coffee, and he followed up the meal with sweets and wine taken from the grocery store. Finally he settled down to sleep on a pile of quilts.
(a) Who is 'he' in the above extract?
(b) Where are the restaurant and grocery store mentioned in the extract located?
- 2 A stranger of such uncommon appearance set all tongues wagging.
(a) Who is the stranger referred to in the above extract?
(b) Why was the appearance of the stranger 'uncommon'?

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

- 3 What did the Vicar of Iping do after he found his money missing?
- 4 What did the London boys follow and why were they fascinated?
- 5 Why did Mrs Hall feel that something was seriously wrong with the scientist who was staying at her inn?
- 6 What experiments did Griffin carry out? What was the final result of those experiments?
- 7 Why was the strange scientist strongly suspected of having a hand in the burglary at the clergyman's home?

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

- 8 "The scientist was a man of irritable temper." Comment.
- 9 One must be a law abiding citizen of the country. Griffin lacked this value in his character. How did it make him an undesirable person?

CHAPTER

06

The Making of a Scientist

by Robert W Peterson



Chapter Overview

The story 'The Making of a Scientist' is about the great scientist Richard H Ebright. He had a habit of collecting butterflies, rocks fossils and coins since he was a kid. He started scientific research on the study of butterflies. His curiosity and a will to win for the right reasons made him successful.

About the Characters

Richard H Ebright He is a brilliant scientist. He is noted for his work on cell and reading of DNA.

Richard's Mother She is an encouraging mother who supported Richard in every way.

Dr Frederick A Urquhart He is a prominent scientist. He did his research on monarch butterflies. He provided valuable guidance to Richard for his projects.

Richard A Weiherer He is Richard's social studies teacher. He helped Richard to become a good debater and a public speaker.

James R Wong He is a fellow scholar who worked with Richard on a project.

Summary

Richard's Success at Young Age

The article of Richard H Ebright and his friend was published in the scientific journal 'Proceedings of the National Academy of Science'. He was only twenty-two years old at that time. It was the first time that the research work of college students was published. It was a rare honour for Richard.

Richard's Childhood

Richard was the only child of his parents. They lived in Pennsylvania, USA. As there was no scope for playing football or baseball so he developed the habit of collecting things such as rocks, fossils and coins. He also took interest in the science of astronomy and also loved to gaze at the stars all night.

Richard's Mother : His True Companion

Richard lost his father when he was in third grade so his mother was his only companion. His mother encouraged his interest in learning. She took him on trips and bought him telescopes, microscopes, cameras, mounting materials and many other equipments. She also supported him in his hobbies. She also invited his friends to play with him. She helped him in learning at young age and he earned top grades in his school.

Richard Reads 'The Travels of Monarch X' Book

Richard was deeply interested in butterflies since his early childhood. When he was in second grade, he had collected 25 species of butterflies found around his hometown. His interest would have ended but his mother gift him the book 'The Travels of Monarch X.' This book described about the migrating patterns of monarch butterflies to central America. It opened up a new world of science for Richard.

Tagging Butterflies for Research

At the end of the book, Richard found an invitation for studying the migration of butterflies. Readers were told to tag butterflies for research by Dr. Frederick A Urquhart of University of Toronto, Canada.

Soon Richard started tagging monarch butterflies. The butterfly collecting season in his area lasted for six weeks in late summer. It was difficult to chase them one by one. Richard took a decision to raise a stock of butterflies.

He would catch a female monarch and take her eggs. He studied their development from egg to caterpillar to pupa and to adult butterfly. Then, he would tag their wings and free them. He raised thousands of butterflies in the basement of his home. However, soon he started losing interest in butterflies.

Richard's Entry in the County Science Fair

Richard was in seventh grade when he realised, what true science is. He displayed his slides of frogs at the county science fair, but did not win any award. He realised the winners in the fair had tried to do real experiments. He decided that next year, he would also do a real experiment.

Richard's Eighth Grade Project

For his next project, he wrote to Dr. Urquhart for ideas and received many suggestions. Soon, Richard achieved his first success.

In Richard's eighth grade project, he had tried to find the cause of a viral disease that kills monarch caterpillars. Richard thought that the disease might be carried by a beetle. He tried raising caterpillars in presence of beetles but he failed. However, he won a prize in the county fair.

Richard's Next Project on Viceroy Butterflies

Richard's next project was testing the theory that viceroy butterflies copy monarch butterflies. Viceroys butterflies do so to protect themselves from birds as birds don't like to eat monarchs while they like to eat Viceroys.

He also found that a bird starling would only eat monarch butterflies and not ordinary bird food. This project was placed first in the zoology division and third in overall county science fair.

Richard's Discovery of a Hormone

In his second year of high school, Richard discovered an unknown hormone which also led to his new theory on the life of cells. By this project, his purpose was to know the reason behind the twelve tiny gold spots on monarch's pupa. Richard along with another science student built a device which showed that the spots were producing a hormone necessary for the butterfly's full development. This project

won Richard first place in county science fair. He also got entry into the International Science and Engineering Fair. There he won third place for zoology and also got a chance to work at the entomology laboratory of the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research during summer.

Richard Continues his Research on Monarch Pupa

When Richard was a high school junior, he continued his advanced research on the monarch's pupa. Later in his senior year, he grew cells from monarch's wing in a culture.

He showed that the cells would develop into normal butterfly wings scales only when they were fed by the hormones produced by the gold spots.

Richard's Study of Cell and DNA

Richard joined Harvard University after summer. In his junior years, he got the idea of his new theory about cell life while looking at the X-ray photos of chemical structure of a hormone. He believed that his study could tell how the cell can read the blueprint of its DNA (It is the substance in the nucleus of a cell that controls heredity).

Richard and his college room-mate James R. Wong worked all night constructing the plastic models of molecules. Later, they together wrote a paper explaining their theory.

Highest Honours in Harvard

Richard graduated with second position in a class of 1510 students. He became a graduate student researcher. He started experimenting to prove his new theory. His theory may create new ways to prevent some types of cancer and other diseases.

Richard: An all Rounder

Richard was not just a scientist. He was an all rounder. He was a champion debator and a public speaker. He was also a good canoeist and an outdoor person. He was also a great photographer.

In his high school, he was a part of the Debating and the Model United Nations Clubs. There, he found Richard A Weiherer, his social studies professor whom he admired a lot.

Richard: A True Scientist

Mr. Weiherer (Ebright's Teacher) praised Richard for his hard work. He also praised Richard's healthy competitiveness which was just for the sake of doing his best. Richard had all the qualities that made him a true scientist. He had a first rate mind, curiosity and a will to win for all the right reasons.

WORD MEANINGS

The given page nos. correspond to the pages in the prescribed textbook.

Word	Meaning
Page 32	
scout	a member of the scout association
journal	a newspaper or magazine that deals with a particular subject
making the big leagues	becoming part of a successful or important group
kindergarten	school for small children
astronomer	a scientific observer of stars and planets
determination	firmness of purpose
eager	strongly wanting to do or have something
star-gazing	looking at the stars
Page 33	
variegated	having patches, stripes or marks of different colours
crescant	a shape that is curved, wide at its center and pointed at its two ends like a crescent moon
species	a group of animals or plants that are similar and can produce young animals or plants

Word	Meaning
fritillary	a butterfly with orange-brown wings that are chequered with black
Page 34	
monarch and viceroy	types of butterflies found in North America
tedious	boring and too slow or long
adhesive	able to stick fast to a surface or object; sticky
chase	to hurry after someone or something in order to catch him/her or it
Page 35	
stack	large number
starling	a dark brown or black bird that is common in Europe and the US
zoology	the branch of science that involves the study of animals and animal behaviour
Page 36	
ornamental	showy, decorative
entomology	a branch of science that deals with the study of insects

Word	Meaning
culture	the growing of cells in a specially prepared nutrient medium
scales	small, thin, horny or bony plates
eureka	a cry of joy when one discovers something
blueprint	a design plan
hormone	a natural substance that is produced in the body and that influences the way in which body grows or develops
pupa	an insect that is in the stage of development between larva and adult
Page 37	
canoeist	person paddling a canoe
exhibits	things
sake	for the purpose of

NCERT FOLDER

(Here we have covered questions given in the NCERT textbook along with their answers.)

Read and Find Out (Page 32)

1 How did a book become a turning point in Richard Ebright's life?

Ans. The book 'The Travels of Monarch X' became a turning point in Richard Ebright's life as after reading it, he became interested in studying the migration of butterflies. It opened the world of science for Richard.

2 How did his mother help him?

or How did Ebright's mother help him in becoming a scientist? **CBSE 2019**

Ans. Richard Ebright's mother helped him in becoming a scientist by encouraging his interest in learning. She took him on trips and bought scientific equipment for him. She spent all her time in setting up challenges for him. This helped Richard to learn a lot. She presented him the book 'The Travels of Monarch X'. The book changed Richard's life forever.

Read and Find Out (Page 34)

1 What lesson does Ebright learn when he does not win anything at a science fair?

Ans. When he did not win anything at a science fair, Ebright learnt an important lesson that science is not just about display, it is about projects and real experiments.

2 What experiments and projects does he then undertake?

Ans. Richard Ebright undertook many projects and experiments. His first project was to prove that a beetle carries a viral disease that kills monarch caterpillars.

Then, he tried to prove that viceroy butterflies copy monarchs. Later, he studied the twelve golden spots on monarch pupa and discovered a new hormone. Also, he found out how cells read their DNA.

3 What are the qualities that go into the making of a scientist?

Ans. The three essential qualities that make a scientist are : a first-rate mind, the presence of curiosity and the will to do the best and win.

Think About It (Page 38)

1 How can one become a scientist, an economist, a historian ...? Does it simply involve reading many books on the subject? Does it involve observing, thinking and doing experiments?

Ans. Reading of books is important for becoming a scientist, an economist and a historian. However, it is not enough. Apart from the knowledge gained from books, one must be able to think independently.

Yes, one also requires a keen interest in observing, thinking and doing experiments and gain as much practical knowledge as possible to be successful in their fields.

2 You must have read about cells and DNA in your science books. Discuss Richard Ebright's work in the light of what you have studied. If you get an opportunity to work like Richard Ebright on projects and experiments, which field would you like to work on and why?

Ans. For self-attempt.

Talk About It (Page 38)

1 Children everywhere wonder about the world around them. The questions they ask are the beginning of scientific inquiry. Given below are some questions that children in India have asked Prof Yash Pal and Dr Rahul Pal as reported in their book, *Discovered Questions*, (published by NCERT in 2006).

(i) What is DNA fingerprinting? What are its uses?

(ii) How do honeybees identify their own honeycombs?

(iii) Why does rain fall in drops?

Can you answer these questions? You will find Prof Yash Pal's and Dr Rahul's answers (as given in *Discovered Questions*) on Page 75.

Ans. (i) DNA fingerprinting is a forensic technique used to identify individuals by the characteristics of their DNA. It is used in parentage testing. It is also used in criminal investigation to identify a person or to place him at the scene of crime.

(ii) Honeybees have signalling chemicals. They leave trails for fellow honeybees so that they can reach their honeycomb.

(iii) Rain fall in drops as the only solid thing in the air are dust particles. Water vapour uses it as a centre of attraction when it becomes too heavy. Water vapour condenses on the dust particle as a drop and falls on Earth.

Exam Practice

Extract Based Questions

[2 Marks each]

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1 So he did, and did he ever! Beginning in kindergarten, Ebright collected butterflies with same determination that has marked all his activities.

(a) What else did he collect other than butterflies?

(b) Find a word from the extract which means 'resoluteness'.

Ans. (a) He collected fossils, coins and rocks other than butterflies.

(b) 'Determination' is a word from the extract which means 'resoluteness'.

2 He would catch a female monarch, take her eggs, and raise them in his basement through their life cycle...

(a) Why did he raise butterflies?

(b) Find the word which has the same meaning as the word 'rear' from the extract given above.

Ans. (a) He raised butterflies to study their migration pattern.

(b) 'Raise' is the similar meaning word as 'rear' from the extract.

3 "It was really a sad feeling to sit there and not get anything while everybody else had won something."

(a) Who is the speaker of the above lines?

(b) Find a word from the extract which is the opposite of 'nobody'.

Ans. (a) Richard Ebright is the speaker of the above lines.

(b) 'Everybody' is the opposite of 'nobody' from the extract.

4 If the theory proves correct, it will be a big step towards understanding the processes of life. **CBSE 2012**

(a) What is the theory about?

(b) Who proposed the theory?

Ans. (a) The theory is about how cells read their DNA.

(b) The theory was proposed by Richard Ebright and his friend James R Wong.

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

[2 Marks each]

1 What rare achievement did Richard manage at the age of twenty-two?

Ans. Richard had a rare achievement at the age of twenty-two. He wrote an article with his friend about a theory of how cells work. The article was published in the scientific journal 'Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.' It was the first time that this journal had ever published the work of college students.

2 Richard became a collector at an early age. How?

Ans. Richard was the only child of his parents. He had no company at home to play with. So, he started collecting things in his spare time. He would collect coins, fossils, rocks and butterflies as a hobby. In this way, Richard became a collector at an early age.

3 Why did Richard lose interest in tagging butterflies?

or Why did Ebright lose interest in tagging butterflies? **CBSE 2020**

Ans. Richard raised thousands of butterflies, tagged them and released them to study their migration. But soon, he lost interest because only two of his tagged butterflies were recaptured and they had travelled only seventy-five miles.

4 Who was Dr. Frederick A Urquhart? Why did Richard Ebright look to him for fresh ideas?

Ans. Dr. Frederick A Urquhart was a scientist and teacher at the University of Toronto, Canada. He was doing research on butterfly migrations. Ebright sent him many tagged butterflies for his research work. Richard looked to him for fresh ideas and suggestions because the suggestions sent by Dr. Urquhart helped in shaping Ebright's career as a scientist.



5 Which project did Richard undertake in the eighth grade?

Ans. In the eighth grade, Richard undertook the project to find the cause of a viral disease that had killed monarch caterpillars. He thought that a beetle might carry the virus, so he rose caterpillars in the presence of beetles. He was not able to prove it but still won a prize for it.

6 Why do viceroy butterflies copy the monarch butterflies?

Ans. Birds eat viceroy butterflies because they taste good to them, whereas monarch butterflies do not taste good to the birds. So, the viceroys try to copy the monarchs to protect themselves from the birds.

7 Richard's project on the purpose of the twelve tiny gold spots on a monarch pupa was highly valuable in two ways. List the two ways.

Ans. Richard's project on the purpose of the twelve tiny gold spots on a monarch pupa was highly valuable in the following two ways

- First, he discovered a hormone that was necessary for the growth of the pupa.
- Secondly, he got a chance to work at a famous laboratory as he won the first prize in the county fair and entry into the International Science and Engineering Fair.

8 Mention any two of Ebright's contributions to the world of science. **CBSE 2011**

Ans. The two contributions of Ebright to the world of science were

- Ebright built a device that showed that the spots on monarch butterflies wings produce a hormone that is necessary for the growth of the butterfly.
- His other important contribution was his study of how cells read their DNA.

9 In addition to science, what were the other interests of Richard?

Ans. Apart from science, Richard was a good debater and a public speaker as well as a canoeist and an outdoor person. He also loved photography and likes to collect different kinds of things and butterflies.

10 Mr Weiherer pays a glowing tribute to Richard. What did he say?

Ans. Mr Weiherer was Ebright's social studies teacher and the advisor to the clubs that Richard Ebright had joined. He praised him for his brilliant mind, his curiosity and a will to win for the right reason. He also admired Richard for his spirit to do his best all the time.

11 Hobbies play a very important role in one's life. Elaborate this with reference to 'The Making of a Scientist'. **CBSE 2016**

Ans. It is true that hobbies play a very important role in one's life. It was Richard Ebright's hobbies that led him into the field of science. His hobbies were encouraged by his mother who always motivated him to learn new things. Further, it is because of his hobbies that he became a curious all rounder, always ready to participate in things that he loved to do.

gave him problems to solve. This helped Richard to learn a lot.

She was his only companion for a long time. She always tried to give him work that required no physical labour but those which enhanced his learning skill.

It was his mother who got him the book 'The Travels of Monarch X'. This book opened the world of science for Richard. She also wrote to Dr Urquhart to guide her son. The scientist helped Richard and guided him. Thus, his mother shaped him into an extraordinary scientist.

2 Richard Ebright displayed a well-rounded personality. Do you agree? Elucidate in the context of the given text. **CBSE 2016**

Ans. Richard Ebright displayed a well-rounded personality from his childhood. His genius was obvious by the time he was in second grade. He not only collected butterflies but also collected rocks, fossils and coins. He had managed to collect all the twenty-five species of butterflies that were found in his hometown and had classified them.

Science was not his only passion. He was an active member of his school's debating club and Model United Nations Clubs and was also an effective debater and public speaker. He was an enthusiastic canoeist and an all-round outdoor person with a keen interest in photography. Because of his interest and hobbies, it was simple for him to devote time and energy to many other interests. He was a champion, not because of his desire to win for the sake of winnings but for attempting to do his best. All of these qualities make him a well-rounded personality.

3 "Success is failure turned inside out". Prove the above statement with instances from the journey taken by Richard Ebright from losing at the science fair to winning at the international fair.

Ans. Success is a result of failure. It never comes straight or directly. It takes a journey through failure which motivates an individual to move to the path of success.

Similar thing happened with Richard Ebright as well. Although he had a keen interest in science and earned top grades in school, he was just like a

normal kid. He faced failures just like everyone else. However, every failure strengthened his will to succeed.

When he was in the seventh grade, Richard had participated in a county science fair with his slide of frog tissues but he did not win. This saddened him. He soon realised his mistake and became determined to win the next year. He requested Dr. Urquhart for suggestions and worked on them. His hardwork finally paid off.

The next year when he participated in the county science fair, he won a prize. This prize further motivated him to further his studies. He extended his projects from studying Monarch butterflies to find how cells read their DNA. Thus, for Ebright, we can say that success is failure turned inside out.

4 How did Ebright use determination and perseverance to achieve his aim of becoming a scientist? **CBSE 2019**

Ans. Beginning in the Kindergarten, Ebright collected butterflies with the same determination that marked all his activities. In the second grade, he had collected all 25 species of butterflies found around his hometown. Due to his determination to study butterflies, he raised a flock of butterflies.

During subsequent years, he participated in science fairs, completed a number of research projects and graduated from Harvard with highest honours, second in his class of 1510. Ebright went on to become a graduate student researcher at Harvard Medical School. There he began doing experiments to test his theory how the cell can read the blueprint of its DNA. Thus his determination and perseverance made him a famous scientist.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

[8 Marks each]

1 Richard's mother had a great influence on him. Discuss.

or Discuss the role of Ebright's mother in making him a scientist. **CBSE 2011**

Ans. Richard's mother played a huge role in making him a great scientist. She would take him on trips to encourage learning. He was a single child. After his father died, his mother made him the focus of her life. She would buy him all kinds of microscopes, telescopes and other equipments. After dinner, she

Self Assessment

Extract Based Question

Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow.

- 1 "Eventually I began to lose interest in tagging butterflies."
(a) What created his interest in the first place?
(b) Why did he lose interest?

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

- 2 Richard showed that he was not an average boy in second grade. How?
- 3 What was heart-warming about the competitive spirit in Richard?
- 4 How did Ebricht excite the world of science at the age of twenty-two?
- 5 Why couldn't Richard Ebricht play baseball during his childhood days?

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

- 6 What did Ebricht realise when he did not win any prize in the country science fair?
- 7 Although Richard does not win anything at the science fair, it was a stepping stone for his success. In the light of the above statement, give your comments whether competitions are for the sake of winning or to give your best at work.
- 8 The proverb 'Where there is a will, there is a way' fits Richard Ebricht as he had the will to become a scientist although he was not having adequate resources. Then how did he become a successful scientist? Briefly outline how he found the way.

CHAPTER

07

The Necklace

by Guy De Maupassant

Chapter Overview

'The Necklace' is a story of a middle class lady named Matilda Loisel. She was born in a poor family and was married to a clerk named M. Loisel. Matilda was a very pretty young lady but she was dissatisfied with the poverty of her family. She wanted to have the luxuries in her life.

She borrowed a necklace from her friend, Mme Forestier and lost it in the ball (party). She decided to replace it with a necklace that looked similar to it. To get the new necklace, they had to take many loans. As a result, they led a miserable life full of poverty and struggles. Finally, in the end it is discovered that the necklace was actually fake.

About the Characters

Matilda Loisel She is a pretty young woman who is married to a clerk. She is dissatisfied with what she has. She is always lost in her dreams of wealth and pleasure.

M. Loisel He is the husband of Matilda and is an ordinary clerk. He always tries to please his wife as he is a caring man.

Madam Forestier She is a good friend of Matilda. She is helpful and considerate. She lends Matilda a necklace that leads to her ruin.

Summary

Matilda Loisel and her Unhappiness

Matilda Loisel was a pretty married lady who had high ambitions. She wished to be wealthy and dreamt of a marvellous life. However, she was born into a family of clerks. She was also married to a clerk, M. Loisel who worked in the office of Board of Education.

Matilda believed that she was born for a life of luxury. She always used to dream of elegant dinners, fine crockery, beautiful frocks and delicious dishes. So, whenever she saw her rich friend, she felt disappointment.

M. Loisel brings an Invitation

One evening Matilda's husband, M. Loisel returned from his office with a large envelope. The envelope consisted of an invitation to a ball (party) at the Minister's residence. M. Loisel thought that his wife would be happy to read the invitation but she was not happy to see the invitation.

Matilda told her husband that she did not have a good dress to wear in the ball. Further, she told him to give the invitation to his colleague.

New Dress was Bought

After realising Matilda's distress, her husband M. Loisel told her that she could buy a new dress. He had saved four hundred francs to buy a gun to join some hunting parties. Now, he would give the money to Matilda for buying a new dress.

Matilda still not Happy

Matilda bought a new dress but she was still unhappy. Her husband asked about the reason of her unhappiness. Matilda told her husband that she would not go for the ball as she did not have any jewellery to wear with her dress. Her husband suggested that she could wear some natural flowers.

But Matilda was not convinced and replied that she would look shabby among the rich women. Finally, her husband advised her that she should go to Mme Forestier, her friend and borrow her jewellery.

Matilda Gets Necklace from Mme Forestier

Next day, Matilda went to her friend's house. She told Mme Forestier her problem. Mme Forestier brought her jewel case and asked Matilda to make her choice. Matilda tried various pieces of jewellery but ultimately decided to borrow a diamond necklace.

Matilda at the Night of Ball

The night of the ball arrived and Matilda was happy at the occasion. She looked very beautiful. Everyone liked her and she was the centre of attraction. She danced with great enthusiasm and happiness. She went home at 4 am. Then they hired an old carriage (cab) and returned home.

The Necklace was Lost

When Matilda returned home and was changing her dress, she wanted to see her beauty in final view before the mirror. Suddenly, she noticed that the necklace was not around her neck. She cried out and informed her husband that she had lost the necklace.

Her husband searched for the necklace on every place, where they went last night. He went to the police and the cab offices. He also put an advertisement in the newspapers offering reward, but the necklace was not found. So he advised her wife to write a letter to her friend telling her that the clasp (lock) of the necklace was broken and she needed some time to get the necklace repaired.

Matilda Replace the Necklace

At last, Matilda and her husband decided to replace the necklace with a necklace that looked similar to it. They searched for a similar necklace everywhere and found it in a shop at Palais Royal.

WORD MEANINGS

The given page nos. correspond to the pages in the prescribed textbook.

Word	Meaning		
Page 39		dismay	a feeling of unhappiness and disappointment
petty	of lesser rank or importance	Page 41	
incessantly	continuously	vexed	annoyed, frustrated or worried
tureen	a deep bowl with a cover used for serving soup	ecstatic	very happy and excited
exquisite	finely made	Page 42	
despair	a complete loss of hope	salon	a room used for entertaining guests
elated	to be extremely joyful	modest	not expensive
Page 40		cloak	a sleeveless garment that hangs loosely from shoulders
spitefully	hurtfully		

The necklace cost 40,000 Francs but they bargained it to 36000 Francs. Her husband gave her 18000 francs which his father had left for him. He took a loan of the remaining amount and purchased a diamond necklace. Finally, Matilda returned the necklace to her friend.

Life of Poverty

After replacing the necklace, Matilda and her husband lived in poverty. They sent away the maid, changed their lodgings and rented some rooms of the attic. Matilda had to do all the work. Matilda started dressing like a commoner and even went to get her grocery shopping.

Her husband worked day and night. He spent his evening putting the books of some merchants and did some copyings at night. Finally they were able to pay off their debt after ten years of poverty.

Matilda had Changed

After ten years, Matilda had changed. She had become an old, strong, hard woman. Her hair was badly dressed, her skirts were awry (uneven), her hands were red and she spoke in a loud tone. She would often think if she had not lost the necklace, her life would be better.

The Truth of Necklace Revealed

One Sunday while Matilda was walking in the Champs-Elysees, she saw Mme Forestier. She was looking charming and beautiful as she had looked ten years before.

Now that all the debts were paid off, Matilda decided to tell Mme Forestier about her necklace. At this, Mme Forestier informed her that it was a fake necklace which cost only five hundred Francs.

NCERT FOLDER

(Here we have covered questions given in the NCERT textbook along with their answers.)

Read and Find Out (Page 39)

1 What kind of a person is Mme Loisel and why is she always unhappy?

Ans. Matilda was a pretty young lady but she belonged to a poor family. She was married to a clerk. She had great aspirations in life. Her poverty and lack of recognition made her angry and unhappy.

2 What kind of a person is her husband?

Ans. Her husband, M. Loisel is an ordinary clerk in the office of the Board of Education. He is a loving and caring husband who wanted to make his wife happy.

Read and Find Out (Page 41)

1 What fresh problem now disturbs Mme Loisel?

Ans. A fresh problem that disturbs Mme Loisel is that she does not have a beautiful jewel to go with her dress that she was supposed to wear at the ball. So, she asks her husband to pass on the invitation to someone else.

2 How is the problem solved?

Ans. Matilda Loisel's husband, M. Loisel came to solve Matilda's problem. First, he suggests her to wear fresh flowers. Then, he advises her to borrow jewels from her rich friend, Mme Forestier. Thus, the problem is solved as Mme Forestier lends her a beautiful diamond necklace.

Read and Find Out (Page 42)

1 What do M. and Mme Loisel do next?

Ans. Loisel did everything to find the necklace. M. Loisel went back and searched for the lost necklace. Then, he went to the police and to the cab offices. Also, they put out an advertisement in the newspapers and offered a reward to anyone who finds the necklace. But, all their efforts went in vain.

2 How do they replace the necklace?

Ans. After all other efforts fail, Loisel decided to buy a new identical necklace to replace the lost one. M. Loisel gave eighteen thousand Francs that his father had left for him and took a loan for the rest. Then the couple managed to buy the new necklace for thirty six thousand francs and returned it to Mme Forestier.

Think About It (Page 46)

1 The course of the Loisel's life changed due to the necklace. Comment.

Ans. It is true that the necklace changed the course of the Loisel's life. It took the Loisels ten years to pay back the money they had borrowed to buy the necklace. It changed everything for them.

They had to move to the poorest quarters of the city. With no maids or assistance, Matilda had to cook, clean, mend, sew and bargain with the grocer and butcher to save every sou (a french coin of low value) just for their mere survival. The husband had to work in the evening and night to pay their debt.

2 What was the cause of Matilda's ruin? How could she have avoided it?

Ans. The cause of Matilda's ruin was her over ambitiousness and dissatisfaction from life. She was an extremely beautiful girl who expected too much from life. But unfortunately, she was married to an ordinary man who could not provide her with all the materialistic luxuries.

She could have avoided it if she had told the fact to her friend that she had lost the necklace. By hiding the reality, she ruined her life.

Moreover, she should have been satisfied with what she had instead of imitating rich people.

3 What would have happened to Matilda if she had confessed to her friend that she had lost her necklace?

Ans. If Matilda had confessed to her friend that she had lost her necklace, she might have been in lesser trouble than what she faced after having replaced the necklace. Her friend would have been angry with her and most probably would have asked Matilda to replace it.

She would have given her the details from where she bought the necklace and how much it had cost her. Matilda would thus have known that the jewels in the necklace were not real diamonds. It would have cost her a far lesser amount to replace it. Matilda would thus have saved herself and her husband from all the trouble they went through.

- 4 If you were caught in a situation like this, how would you have dealt with it?

Ans. If I was caught in such a situation, I would have let the truth out and then faced the consequences. Honesty would have been the way out for me.

Talk About It (Page 46)

- 1 The characters in this story speak in English. Do you think this is their language? What clues are there in the story about the language its characters must be speaking in?

Ans. Though the characters speak in English, it is not their language. Maupassant (the author) wrote the story in French and it was translated into English.

The text has enough words in French to prove it otherwise. First, the very names of characters like 'Mme Loisel, Mme Forestier and the Minister's name George Ramponneau indicate their French origin.

Then, the words for currency like 'Franc' and 'Sou' show the same. Also, the shop's location at 'Palais-Royal' and 'Champs-Elysees' point out the French history of the characters and the story.

- 2 Honesty is the best policy.

Ans. Honesty is definitely the best policy. Falsehood and hypocrisy seem very attractive and rewarding at first. But, the path they tread on leads to nothing but misery, evil and utter gloom. Honesty, on the contrary, seems to be a difficult choice in pursuit of material happiness. However, it is the only choice for a life of contentment, peace and everlasting happiness.

- 3 We should be content with what life gives us.

Ans. One must learn to live within one's means and be content with what one has. Life is a great mystery. For some, it is all riches, comfort, name and fame. While for others, it is nothing but sheer hunger, poverty, anguish and an everyday quest for bare survival. One may try to improve his lot by honest means but eventually must be at peace with what one manages to have.

Exam Practice

Extract Based Questions

[2 Marks each]

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

- 1 One evening her husband returned elated bearing in his hand a large envelope. 'Here', he said, "here is something for you."

- (a) Why was the husband elated?
(b) What was the reaction from 'you'?

Ans. (a) The husband was elated as he brought home an invite to the Minister's residence. He knew it would make his wife happy.

- (b) 'You' or his wife, unexpectedly, was not the least happy and she made her displeasure very obvious.

- 2 He threw around her shoulders that modest wraps they had carried whose poverty clashed with the elegance of the ball costume. She wished to hurry away...

- (a) What precedes these lines?
(b) 'She' wished to hurry away. Why?

Ans. (a) These lines follow Matilda's success at the ball where she was idolised. Her beauty and elegance was praised by everyone.

- (b) She, 'Matilda' did not wish to shatter the illusion of her grandeur that she had so successfully managed to convey others by putting on such a shabby wrap. So, she wished

to hurry away to escape the notice of the rich women.

- 3 She learned the odious work of a kitchen... she seemed old now. She had become strong, hard woman, the crude woman of a poor household.

- (a) Who seemed old now?
(b) What had made her 'crude'?

Ans. (a) Matilda seemed old now.
(b) Ten long years of poverty, and a constant struggle and strife for survival had made her 'crude'.

- 4 Mme Forestier was touched and took both her hands as she replied, "Oh! My poor Matilda! Mine were false. They were not worth over five hundred francs." CBSE 2015

- (a) Why was Mme Forestier touched?
(b) "Mine were false." What does 'mine' refer to in these words?

Ans. (a) Mme Forestier was touched by Matilda's plight which could have been avoided if only Matilda had told the truth.
(b) 'Mine' refers to the diamond necklace that Mme Forestier had lent to Matilda.

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

[2 Marks each]

- 1 What would Matilda often dream of?
Ans. Matilda would often dream of all the delicacies, luxuries, elegant dinners, marvellous dishes, rich silver, beautiful dresses, jewels, adoration and a life of glory.

- 2 Why did Matilda throw the invitation spitefully?
Ans. Matilda was simply displeased when her husband showed her the invitation. She felt humiliated and threw the invitation spitefully, as she had nothing beautiful enough to wear at the ball.

- 3 Describe Mme Loisel's success at the ball.
or Do you think Mme Loisel had an enjoyable evening at the ball? Give reasons for your answer. CBSE 2014

Ans. Mme Loisel was the centre of attention at the ball. Her beauty, her grace, her joy and the gorgeous smile attracted all. She danced happily. Hence, she had a successful enjoyable evening at the ball.

- 4 Why did Matilda leave the ball in a hurry? What does it show about her character? CBSE 2018

Ans. Matilda left the ball in a hurry because she did not want to be seen with the ordinary wrap that she carried. She believed that the poor looks of her wrap contrasted with the elegance of the other ladies, who were wrapping themselves in rich furs. This shows that she only wanted to keep up the appearance just to flatter her pride without being in touch with the real truth of her life.



5 What excuse did Loiseis put up to explain the delay in returning the necklace?

Ans. Loiseis had lost the necklace and needed time to find an identical one. Thus, Mme Loisel wrote a letter to Mme Forestier with an excuse that the clasp of the necklace had got broken and she needed time to get it repaired.

6 How did Loiseis manage to pay for the necklace?

Ans. To pay for the necklace, M. Loisel had to give away eighteen thousand Francs that his father had left for him and the rest he had to borrow from the usurers. Due to this, they had to spend the rest of their lives in misery and poverty.

7 How did Mme Loisel now know the life of necessity? **CBSE 2016**

Ans. Mme Loisel now knew the life of necessity when the Loiseis lived in poverty to pay off the debt they had taken to return the necklace. They sent off their maid and shifted into an impoverished and poor neighbourhood. Matilda had to cook, clean, wash, mend, bring water and bargain with the butcher as well as the grocer. While her husband worked all day, evening and night to earn as much money as he could.

8 Describe Mme Loisel after ten years.

Ans. Ten years of poverty and hardship stole away Matilda's youth and beauty. She became a strong and hard woman, who was poorly dressed with untidy hair and red ragged hands. Her skirts were awry (uneven) and she spoke in a loud voice. She had become a commoner who had to do all things by herself.

9 Why was Matilda's friend astonished to see her at the end of the story? **CBSE 2012**

or Why did Jeanne not recognise her friend, Matilda?

Ans. Jeanne Forestier, Matilda's friend, could not recognise her at the end of the story as she seemed an old and worn out poor woman. Matilda was no longer her former beautiful and joyous self. She had lost her charm and was living an unfortunate life.

10 Comment on the use of irony in the text.

or How had the sacrifice of Loiseis been in vain?

Ans. The irony in the story 'The Necklace' is based on the fact that the Loiseis spent their ten years in poverty and hard work to replace the lost diamond necklace which turned out to be fake. Thus, all the hard work and sacrifice of the Loiseis went in vain when they got to know that the necklace was a cheap imitation and costed only 500 Francs.

11 Why do you think M Loisel was a loving husband? **CBSE 2019**

Ans. M Loisel was a loving husband as he cared about his wife's emotions. He makes her buy a new dress for the party from the money that he had saved for a gun. He also suggests her to borrow some jewels from her rich friend Madame Forestier. When his wife loses her friend's diamond necklace, he helps her in repaying the debt in all possible manner.

12 Why was Matilda unhappy in her early married life? **CBSE 2020**

Ans. Matilda was a pretty married lady who was always unhappy in her life because she always wished to be wealthy. She always dreamt of living a marvellous life full of luxury. But in reality, she belonged to a family of clerks wherein she did not live a luxurious life.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

[8 Marks each]

1 Mme Loisel's disposition invites her doom. Comment in the context of the text you've read.

or Matilda wanted to live a life above her status. How did this desire of her's led to her sufferings? **CBSE 2019**

Ans. Mme Loisel belonged to a family of clerks but wanted to live a life above her status. They lived on small income, enough for meeting the basic needs but not to fulfil aspirations. She got married to a clerk and was so caught up with her

dreams of wealth and pleasure that she was out of touch with the truths of her real life.

In order to keep up appearances and just to flatter her pride, she blew up four hundred francs on a gorgeous dress. She also went on borrowing a necklace from her friend. All of this was just to impress the wealthy and the rich with her beauty and glamour (even if on loan). No doubt, her pride was flattered and her wish of fine dining and wearing expensive dresses and jewels was satisfied. But it came at a great price.

Unfortunately, the necklace was lost and the couple had to cough up their entire inheritance and borrow as well to replace it. Repayment of the debt ate away the next ten years of their youth. They lived in utter poverty and had to work very hard to repay the loan.

If she had accepted her reality and remained happy with what she had, she would not have suffered so badly. Therefore, one can say that it was her disposition that led her to doom.

2 Mme Forestier proved to be a true friend. Elucidate. **CBSE 2015, 2020**

Ans. Mme Forestier is a true friend of Mme Loisel. She plays a very vital role in the story. As a friend to Matilda, we find her to be really genuine.

She helps Matilda in the hour of her need. When Mme Loisel needed to borrow jewels, she turned to Mme Forestier. Mme Forestier does not refuse. Displaying her generosity, she opens up the entire case of her jewels for Matilda to choose from. Also, she was considerate when the Loiseis delayed the return of the necklace. At the end of the story, she concludes the entire narrative.

Mme Forestier reveals to Matilda that her necklace was just a fake. She is not at all worried in the light of the fact that she may have to return the necklace.

It shows her honesty. She was a true friend who, feels bad for Matilda at her unnecessary suffering.

3 Was Matilda's dream fulfilled at the ball? Why did all men notice and wanted them to be presented to her?

Ans. Yes, Matilda's dream was fulfilled at the ball. Matilda always dreamt of grandeur, luxuries and delicacies in her life. She had prepared for the ball so thoroughly as befitted a grand occasion. She didn't want to present a poverty-stricken image of her, amidst rich ladies and gentlemen.

She made her husband buy a new dress for the party. She borrowed a necklace from Madame Forestier to adorn herself like a graceful and distinguished lady. She proved to be a grand success at the ball and her dream was fulfilled. She was the centre of attraction for all ladies as well as men who were present there.

Matilda danced with enthusiasm. She was intoxicated with pleasure as she loved to be admired and appreciated.

At the party, Matilda was the prettiest of all and that is why all the men noticed her. They couldn't avoid the temptation of noticing her and wanted to be presented to her.

Self Assessment

Extract Based Question

Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow.

- 1 One Sunday as she was taking a walk in the Champs Elysses to rid herself of the cares of the week, she suddenly perceived a woman with a child.
(a) Who is 'she' in these lines?
(b) How did the woman with a child react on seeing her?

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

- 2 Describe Matilda's feelings and thoughts as she returned the box of the necklace to her friend.
- 3 The story has a surprise ending. Discuss.
- 4 Do you agree Matilda is more sinned against than sinning?

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

- 5 What efforts did Matilda and her husband make to look for the best necklace?
- 6 Matilda's craving for a bubble reputation was the cause of her ruin. Draw a conclusion as to how she could have avoided the misfortune that dawned upon her.

CHAPTER

08

The Hack Driver

by Sinclair Lewis

Chapter Overview

The story 'The Hack Driver' by Sinclair Lewis, is about a man named Oliver Lutkins. He was a cunning man who was a witness in a case, but he ignored all the requests for appearing. A young narrator was given the duty to find this man in New Mullion. There he meets a helpful and cheerful hack (cart) driver. The driver takes him around the village in search of Lutkins but is unable to find him.

Later on the narrator came to know that the hack (cart) driver was Oliver Lutkins himself. The young narrator becomes the laughing stock (jokes) of all.

About the Characters

Narrator A young lawyer who is gullible. The hack driver makes a fool out of him.

Oliver Lutkins A dishonest man who rids others and receives summons from the court. He is a great story teller. He takes up the name of Bill Magnuson (hack driver) to fool the narrator.

Summary

The Narrator's Job

The Narrator was a young lawyer who became a Junior Assistant Clerk in a magnificent law firm. He had graduated with honours in law. He had been assigned the duty to serve summons on witnesses. But he hated his job when he was even beaten by some violent people. Consequently, he thought of going back to his home town where he could have been a real lawyer.

The Narrator went to New Mullion

One day, the narrator was sent to a village named New Mullion to serve summons on Oliver Lutkins. Lutkins was a witness in a law case. The narrator was very excited to visit a small and beautiful village but his excitement ended by the dull appearance of the village. The streets were full of mud and there were shabby wooden shops all around.

The only cheerful thing that the narrator found was a delivery man (hack driver) at the station. He was about forty years old with a red face. This man drives a carriage and offered to help him in finding Oliver Lutkins.

The Narrator Met the Hack Driver

The narrator told the hack driver that he wanted to find Oliver Lutkins. The hack driver informed him that he had seen Lutkins about an hour ago. He told that Lutkins was hard to catch. In his opinion, Lutkins was always busy doing one thing or another. The hack driver told the narrator that Lutkins must be playing poker game in the back of Fritz's shop. The driver also told that he knew most of the places where Lutkins might be present.

The Hack Driver Tells about Oliver Lutkins

The narrator found that the nature of the hack driver was very friendly. The narrator bargained the fare money to two dollars per hour and the search for Lutkins began.

As they left to search for Lutkins, the hack driver told the narrator that Lutkins owes money to a lot of people but he never pays them off. He also told that Lutkins owes him fifty cents on a poker game. The narrator was impressed with hack driver's wisdom (intelligence).

Looking for Lutkins

The hack driver introduced himself to the narrator as Bill and told him that his full name was William Magnuson. While going to Fritz's shop, the hack driver informed the lawyer that his name was William Magnuson but people called him Bill. At Fritz's shop, the hack driver asked the lawyer to follow him. He (the hack driver) inquired about Oliver Lutkins and got to know that Lutkins had gone to Gustaff's for a shave.

At Gustaff's, they got to know that Lutkins had spend all his credit and had left the place without getting his shave. So, they went to Gray's where they got to know that Lutkins had gone to the poolroom.

However, by the time both the hack driver and the lawyer reached the poolroom, Lutkins had already left.

The Narrator Enjoys the Driver's Company

It was lunch time so, the narrator offered to take Bill (Hack Driver) to a restaurant. But Bill wanted to go home to his wife for lunch. Bill told the narrator that his wife would pack a lunch for the narrator for half a dollar. So, they had lunch at the Wade's Hills. The narrator was enjoying the company of the hack driver.

The driver told the narrator everything about New Mullion. The driver told him about the people and their habits.

WORD MEANINGS

The given page nos. correspond to the pages in the prescribed textbook.

Word	Meaning	Word	Meaning	Word	Meaning
PAGE 47		lingered	to stay somewhere longer than is necessary	seized	got hold of
summons	an order to appear before a judge	swede	a native of Sweden	retreat	an act of moving back or withdrawing
agreeable sight	pleasant sight	earnestly	very seriously	barn	a large farm building used for storing hay/grain etc
rejoiced	felt or showed great joy or delight	scarcely	hardly	swearing	rude or offensive language that someone uses, especially when they are angry
PAGE 48		PAGE 50		peering	to look carefully or with difficulty
cent	a monetary unit in various countries, equal to one-hundredth of a dollar.	creek	a narrow area of water that flows into the land from the sea	PAGE 52	
PAGE 49		meadow	a piece of grassland	loafing	to spend one's time in an aimless, idle way
part with	to give to some one (money, property, control etc.).	PAGE 51			
		retired	went back		

The simplicity and humour of the driver influenced the narrator so much that he even planned to settle down in the town.

The Driver and the Narrator Visit Oliver's Mother

Both the hack driver and the lawyer looked for Lutkins for a long time. Then one of Lutkin's friends suggested that they should look for Oliver at his mother's place. So, they both went to Lutkins' mother's place. One the journey, the hack driver described Lutkins' mother as a nine feet tall and four feet thick quick lady.

When they reached Lutkin's mother's house and enquired there for Lutkins, the mother took a hot iron rod and threatened to burn them. The two escaped to save themselves. However, they searched the house, the stable, the barn, but failed to find Lutkins anywhere.

The Narrator Returns to Town

When the narrator returned to town without serving the summons, his chief got very angry with him. They needed Lutkins as an important witness in their case. He decided to send another man who knew Lutkins with the narrator to the village to bring him (Lutkins).

The Narrator Serves Summons on Lutkins

The narrator and his companion went to the village the next day. They found the hack driver at the station laughing and joking with Lutkin's mother. The narrator pointed out the driver to his companion and explained how the driver helped him in trying to find Lutkins.

Surprisingly, his companion told the narrator that the driver was Lutkins himself. The narrator served summons on Lutkins who along with his mother was making fun of the narrator.

NCERT FOLDER

Here we have covered questions given in the NCERT textbook along with their answers.)

Read and Find Out (Page 47)

1 Why is the lawyer sent to New Mullion? What does he first think about the place?

Ans. The lawyer was sent to New Mullion to serve summons on Oliver Lutkins, who was needed as a witness in a law case. The lawyer thought that the place must be a beautiful and peaceful country village.

2 Who befriends him? Where does he take him?

Or What does the hack driver do to help the lawyer to look for Oliver Lutkins? CBSE 2019

Ans. A hack driver at the station, who called himself Bill Magnuson, befriends the lawyer. Bill told the lawyer that he knew Lutkins and would help in finding him.

Bill took him to all the places where Lutkins was known to be present. He took the lawyer to Fritz's shop, where Lutkins played a lot of poker; to Gustaff's barber shop and then to Gray's barber shop; to the poolroom and several other places before finally taking him to Lutkins' mother's farm. However, Oliver Lutkins was not found any where.

3 What does Bill say about Lutkins?

Ans. Bill told the lawyer that Lutkins was a hard person to find as he was always busy in some activity or the other. He owed money to many people, including Bill himself but he had never paid back anybody. He also tells the lawyer that Lutkins played a lot of poker and was good at deceiving people.

Read and Find Out (Page 50)

1 What more does Bill say about Lutkins and his family?

Ans. Bill told the lawyer that he knew Lutkins' mother. He described Lutkins' mother as a terror. He also told him that she was about nine feet tall, four feet thick and was quick as a cat.

2 Does the narrator serve the summons that day?

Ans. No, the narrator did not serve the summons that day.

3 Who is Lutkins?

Ans. The hack driver himself is Lutkins but pretends to be Bill Magnuson. He tricks the lawyer to avoid the summons to be a witness in a case.

Think About It (Page 53)

1 When the lawyer reached New Mullion, did 'Bill' know that he was looking for Lutkins? When do you think 'Bill' came up with his plan for fooling the lawyer?

Ans. When the lawyer reached the station, 'Bill' at once got to know that the lawyer was looking for him. When the lawyer told and confirmed Bill's opinion that he was looking for Oliver Lutkins, he made a plan to fool the lawyer.

2 Lutkins openly takes the lawyer all over the village. How is that no one lets out the secret? (Hint : Notice that the hack driver asks the lawyer to keep out of sight behind him when they go into Fritz's). Can you find other such subtle ways in which Lutkins manipulates the tour?

Ans. Lutkins never allows the lawyer to reach the place where the imaginary Lutkins is supposed to be present at a given time. The way he weaves stories about Lutkins' vagabond nature and the way he scares the lawyer about Lutkins' mother are ways of fooling the lawyer devised by the hack driver. Everywhere he does not allow the lawyer to ask about Lutkins but he himself pretends to ask about him, which the villagers are knowing is a pretence. So, the villagers also join in the whole drama. Lutkins it can be said manipulates the tour cleverly. At every place he takes the lawyer, he asks him to either stay outside or stay behind him. With his effective place he is able to prove his honesty and Lutkins dishonesty.

3 Why do you think Lutkins' neighbours were anxious to meet the lawyer?

Ans. Lutkins' neighbours were anxious to meet the lawyer because almost the entire village had enjoyed Lutkins making a fool of the lawyer. Only they (Lutkins' neighbours) had not seen the lawyer but had come to know what had happened. They wanted to see the gullible man whom Lutkins had taken for a ride.

- 4 After his first day's experience with the hack driver the lawyer thinks of returning to New Mullion to practise law. Do you think he would have reconsidered this idea after his second visit?

Ans. No, after knowing how Lutkins had made a fool of him, the lawyer would have reconsidered the idea of returning to New Mullion to practise law. He most probably would have decided to never return to New Mullion again.

- 5 Do you think the lawyer was gullible? How could he have avoided being taken for a ride?

Ans. Yes, the lawyer was gullible (innocent).

He believed every word of what Oliver Lutkins said. He should have asked about Lutkins from other villagers also. Instead of depending completely on the hack driver.

CBSE 2015

Talk About It (Page 53)

- 1 Do we come across persons like Lutkins only in fiction or do we encounter them in real life as well? You can give examples from fiction, or narrate an incident that you have read in the newspaper, or an incident from real life.

Ans. Yes, we often come across people like Lutkins. The newspapers are filled with reports of such kind of people. (Students can further discuss about their knowledge about such people).

- 2 Who is a 'con man', or a 'confidence trickster'?

Ans. A 'con man' or a 'confidence trickster' is a person who makes a fool out of other people. He wins their trust first and then, he gets from them whatever he wants.

Exam Practice

Extract Based Questions

[2 Marks each]

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

- 1 I was sent, not to prepare legal briefs, but to serve summons, like a cheap detective.

- (a) At what post was 'I' working?
(b) Why was he not given legal briefs to prepare?

Ans. (a) 'I' was working as a Junior Assistant Clerk.
(b) Probably because he was inexperienced, he was not given legal briefs to prepare.

- 2 He was so open and friendly that I glowed with the warmth of his affection. I knew, of course, that he wanted the business, but his kindness was real.

- (a) Who is 'he' in these lines?
(b) Give an instance of his kindness.

Ans. (a) 'He' in these lines is Bill Magnuson, the hack driver.

- (b) He offered to take the narrator through the village and find Lutkins.

- 3 So we pursued him, just behind him, but never catching him, for an hour till it was past one o' clock,

- (a) Who was pursuing whom?
(b) Why were they pursuing him?

Ans. (a) The narrator and Bill were pursuing Lutkins.
(b) They were pursuing him because the lawyer had to serve him a summons.

- 4 What really hurt me was that when I served the summons, Lutkins and his mother laughed at me as though I were a bright boy of seven.

- (a) What hurt the narrator?
(b) Why did the two laugh?

Ans. (a) The laughter of Lutkins and his mother hurt the narrator.

- (b) The two laughed because they had been successful in fooling him.

- 5 I had to go to dirty and shadowy corners of the city to seek out my victims. Some of the larger and more self-confident ones even beat me up.

- (a) Who is 'I'?
(b) What was the nature of his job?

CBSE 2013

Ans. (a) 'I' is the young lawyer who is the narrator of the story.

- (b) The nature of his job was to serve summons on people who were required to present themselves in the court.

- 6 When I got to New Mullion, my eager expectations of a sweet and simple country village were severely disappointed. Its streets were rivers of mud, with rows of wooden shops, either painted a sour brown, or bare of any paint at all.

CBSE 2015

- (a) Who is 'I'? (b) Why was 'I' disappointed?

Ans. (a) 'I' is the young lawyer who is the narrator of the story.
(b) 'I' was disappointed because he did not like the muddy streets and unpainted looks of the shops.

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

[2 Marks each]

- 1 Why did the narrator call his work unpleasant?

or Why did the lawyer hate his work?

Ans. The narrator called his work unpleasant and hated his work because unlike his expectation of practising law, he was sent to serve summons. He had to go to all sorts of dirty and dangerous places.

At times, he was also beaten by those people to whom he had to serve summons.

- 2 Describe the hack driver's appearance in your own words.

Ans. The hack driver looked to be about forty years old. His face was red. He wore dirty and worn out clothes but he was cheerful. His simplicity and humour could influence anyone.



3 'But he was no more dishonest than I'. Explain.

Ans. The lawyer says the following words because the hack driver was charging him a large amount to search for Lutkins. However, just like the hack driver, he was also going to charge the firm for the expenses of visiting New Mullion. Therefore, both of them were equally dishonest.

4 What did the hack driver tell the narrator about Lutkins' mother? CBSE 2014

Ans. The hack driver told the narrator that Lutkins' mother was a real terror. He described that she was nine feet tall and four feet thick. He also said that she was quick as a cat and he suggested him to keep himself away and safe from her.

5 The narrator was happy though he had not found Lutkins. Why?

or On his way back home, the narrator did not worry about his failure to find Lutkins. What was the reason behind his carefree attitude?

or Why did the young lawyer wish to return to New Mullion? CBSE 2019

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

[8 Marks each]

1 In life, people who easily trust others are sometimes made to look foolish. One should not be too trusting. Describe how Oliver Lutkins made a fool of the young lawyer. CBSE 2018

Ans. It is true that in life people who easily trust others are easily made to look foolish. One must remember that not everyone is honest and thus one should not trust everyone blindly.

In the story, 'the Hack Driver', Oliver Lutkins using this characteristic of the lawyer makes him a fool, throughout his first visit to the village.

First, he introduced himself as Bill at the railway station and assured the lawyer that they would together search for Lutkins. He told the lawyer that he knew most of the places where Lutkins used to hang out.

In succession, he took the narrator to Fritz, then to the barber's shop, then to Gray's shop and finally to Lutkins' mother, whom he called a 'terror'. He deceived the lawyer throughout and also made money by taking the lawyer around.

Ans. Even though the lawyer had not found Lutkins, he was happy with the wisdom of the hack driver. Unhappy with his city life, he was elated in the ride he took through New Mullion. He was overjoyed with the presence of the hack driver, so much so that he even planned to settle down in the village. This was the reason behind his carefree attitude and he wished to return to New Mullion.

6 What impressed the narrator most about Bill? Mention any two things.

Ans. The first quality that impressed the narrator was that Bill was a cheerful, friendly and helpful man. Secondly, he was impressed by Bill's simple and philosophical wisdom as he had helped the narrator to find Lutkins.

7 Why did Lutkins pretend to be Bill Magnuson? CBSE 2013

Ans. Lutkins pretended to be Bill Magnuson as he did not want to accept the summons and be a witness in the case. So, he pretended to help the lawyer in finding Lutkins and wandered everywhere.

Thus, because of Lutkins' desire to not be a witness to a case, he made a plan to fool the gullible lawyer and broke his trust.

2 Do you think Lutkins was right in befooling the lawyer and earning money by using unfair means? What precautions should one take to avoid a situation like the one in which the lawyer was placed? CBSE 2014

Ans. Lutkins was not right in befooling the lawyer and earning money by using unfair means. This shows that Lutkins did not care for the law at all. If we are in the lawyer's place, we should not believe in things as they are seen.

We should judge every action taken by the other person carefully before accepting it. Instead of depending on others, we should carry out our enquiries ourselves. The lawyer was befooled because he let Lutkins do the finding and questioning and did not do anything himself. This resulted in his failure to serve the summons on Lutkins.

If we do our duty without being personal and judge everything very carefully, we can get better results.

As the lawyer did not ask anyone about Lutkins and allowed the hack driver to do the same, he became a victim of Lutkins' tricks. As a result, he became a seniors angry who accused him as an irresponsible person. In the same way, we can be treated by our seniors if we are not able to fulfill our duty efficiently.

3 Write a character sketch of the hack driver. CBSE 2020

Ans. The hack driver, named Bill was a red-faced, forty years old man with a cheerful and a pleasant personality. The narrator met the hack driver when he had come to New Mullion to serve summons on Oliver Lutkins. Initially, the narrator found Bill to be a friendly, wise and an agreeable fellow. When the narrator informed Bill about his visit, Bill readily accepted to help him and took him to all the places where Lutkins could be found.

However, later the narrator get to know that Bill was a clever fellow. Bill had all the arts with him to win the confidence of gullible (innocent) people like the lawyers and fool them. Bill himself was Oliver Lutkins and as soon as he got to know about the lawyer's visit, he devised a plan. He pretended to help the lawyers.

All of this show that Bill was a great schemer. He cleverly fooled the lawyer into believing that he was trying to help. But in reality, he never allowed the

lawyer to come directly in touch with the people. Therefore, Bill perfectly played a double role and outwitted the narrator.

4 What did the hack driver tell the narrator about Lutkins' mother? How did she treat the narrator? CBSE 2020

Ans. While going to Lutkins' mothers house, the hack driver informed the narrator that Lutkins' mother was a terror. He told him that she was about nine feet tall and four feet thick lady who was as quick as a cat. He also told him that once he had taken a trunk for her at her farmhouse and she had almost taken his skin off. All this information frightened the narrator but he still went to look for Lutkins at his mother's place.

When they reached Lutkins mother's house, they were faced with an enormous and cheerful old woman. Bill went to her and informed her about their visit. Lutkins' mother bluntly told them that shee did not know anything about Lutkins.

When Bill pressed for searching the house as it was their legal right, she went inside and came out with a hot iron rod to attack them. Consequently, both of them ran away from the location.

Self Assessment

Extract Based Question

Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow.

- 1 "Let's get out of here. She'll murder us", Bill whispered.
(a) Who is 'she' here?
(b) Why would 'she' murder them?

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

- 2 What did the narrator think about the hack driver at the end of the first day?
- 3 Why did Lutkins' mother behave badly with the lawyer?
- 4 How did the narrator's promising legal career almost come to an end?

Long Answer (LA) Type Question

- 5 A person may appear humble but in actual he may not be so. Explain this in context of story 'The Hack Driver'.

CHAPTER

09

Bholi

by KA Abbas



Chapter Overview

Bholi is the story of Sulekha who not only symbolises simplicity but innocence too. She is a young girl neglected by all due to her unattractive physical appearance. Education inspires courage and confidence in her. It gives her the strength to raise her voice and fight for her rights. She stood up for her honour and self-respect in the end and rebelled against the evil practice of dowry system.

About the Characters

Bholi Her real name is Sulekha and she is Numberdar (Numberdar-a person in village of high status) Ramlal's youngest daughter. School education changes her outlook towards life.

Ramlal (Bholi's father) He is a prosperous father of seven children who has a narrow mindset. For him, daughters are born for marriage only.

Bholi's mother She is a typical conservative mother. She does not take proper care of Bholi.

Bholi's school teacher She educates Bholi and encourages her.

Bishamber Bholi's prospective husband who is a greedy man and a dowry-seeker.

Summary

Bholi as a Child

Bholi's real name was Sulekha but from her childhood everyone called her Bholi. She was the fourth daughter out of the seven children of Ramlal, Numberdar of the village. When Bholi was 10 months old she had fallen off the cot which had damaged some part of her brain. Since then she remained a backward child.

Further, when she was two years old, she suffered from an attack of small pox and her entire body was disfigured by deep black pock-marks. She learned to speak at the age of five and stammered while speaking. So, everyone made fun of her.

Bholi's Family

Bholi's father was a rich farmer who sent his sons to the city for studies. The eldest daughter, Radha was already married whereas Mangla and Champa were good looking and healthy girls. Ramlal was only worried about Bholi as she was neither beautiful nor intelligent.

Bholi Goes to School

Bholi was seven years old when a primary school opened in their village. The Tehsildar who had come to inaugurate the school advised Ramlal to send his daughter to school to set an example for others. Ramlal could not say no to him. His wife objected that no one would marry the girls if they went to school. But then she felt that Bholi was ugly and it would be difficult to get her married. So, they decided to send only Bholi to school.

Bholi Prepares for School

Next day, Bholi was dressed to go to school. Bholi was given new clothes for the school. Earlier she used to wear old clothes of her sisters. She was given a bath and oil was rubbed into her dry hair.

Bholi was filled with fear when her father went back to village after handling Bholi to the headmistress. Her headmistress asked her to sit in a corner in one of the classrooms. She was glad to see girls of her own age at school.

Bholi's First Day at School

The lady teacher in the class said something to other girls but Bholi could not understand anything. She was attracted to the colourful pictures on the wall. She was much impressed by the realistic pictures of birds and animals. The teacher asked her name. Bholi stammered and then started crying.

After the other children left, the teacher came back to her. She called her lovingly and encouraged her to tell her name. This time Bholi tried to speak her name and was successful. The teacher told Bholi to come to school everyday. Bholi felt as if a new life was beginning for her.

The Teacher Gives her a Book

The teacher gave a book to Bholi which had pictures of dog, cat, goat, etc. The teacher told her that she would be able to read like everyone else in a month and then no one would laugh at her. Bholi was happy as the teacher encouraged Bholi and gave her a hope of a new life.

Progress of Village

Many years passed, the village progressed and converted into a small town. The primary school became a high school. There were now a cinema under a tin shed and a cotton ginning mill. The mail train began to stop at their railway station.

Bholi's Marriage Proposal

One night after dinner Ramlal and his wife were talking about a marriage proposal for Bholi. Bishamber was forty five or fifty years old widower. He had grown up children from his first wife. Bishamber was rich and had not demanded any dowry. Ramlal was not very happy from this proposal but his wife believed that it was the best marriage proposal for Bholi.

She told Ramlal that since Bishamber was from another village, he didn't know about Bholi's pockmarks and lack of sense. So, Bholi's marriage was fixed.

Arrival of Bridegroom

On the wedding day, Bishamber came as a bridegroom with his friends and relatives. Bholi came out in red silken bridal dress.

A woman slipped Bholi's veil. Bishamber had a look at her face. He confirmed with his friend if Bholi had pockmarks on her face. Bishamber's friend replied that it did not matter since Bishamber was not very young.

A Hurdle in the Wedding

When the wedding was about to take place, Bishamber Nath asked for five thousand rupees to marry Bholi as she had pock-marks on her face. He also threatened to walk away from the ceremony. Ramlal was afraid of the humiliation and so, with tears in his eyes, he handed the dowry money to Bishamber.

Bholi Refuses to Marry

Bishamber proceeded towards Bholi with a garland but Bholi threw the garland away. She asked her father to take back the money and refused to marry Bishamber.

The people around started talking and Ramlal asked Bholi to take care of his respect. Bholi, however refused to marry such a greedy man. An old woman now called her shameless which angered Bholi. The angry Bholi replied that now she is not a dumb or a stammering fool.

The Courageous Bholi

When Bishamber and everyone went away, Ramlal asked Bholi what she would do with her future. Bholi told him that she would not marry and take care of her parents in their old age. She also told them that she would teach at the school just like her teacher.

Sulekha's teacher who was watching all this drama approved Bholi's decision. She smiled at her with satisfaction just like an artist who is satisfied after completing her masterpiece.

WORD MEANINGS

The given page nos. correspond to the pages in the prescribed textbook.

Word	Meaning
PAGE 54	
pock-marks	marks on the skin left by the small-pox disease
mimicked	copy the behaviour or speech of other people in order to make fun of them
stammered	to speak with many pauses or repetitions because of having a speech problem
disfigured	spoiled or damaged
PAGE 55	
revenue	the income that a government receives regularly, or an amount representing such income
PAGE 56	
matted (of hair)	tangled into a thick mass
squatted	sat on their heels

Word	Meaning
PAGE 57	
scurried	to move quickly with short steps
soothing	having a gently calming effect
PAGE 58	
blossomed (of a tree or plant)	to produce flowers
heart was throbbing	heart was beating much harder and faster than usual due to excitement
PAGE 59	
witless	very foolish or stupid
grocer	one who sells food and household goods
prompted	to cause (someone) to do something
poised	not moving but ready to move
humiliate	to make someone feel very ashamed or foolish

Word	Meaning
muttered	to speak quietly so that it is difficult for other people to hear what you say.
PAGE 60	
triumphant	victorious
prospective	likely to be or become something specified in the future
like a streak of lightning	very quickly
contempt	a strong feeling of disregard for someone
PAGE 61	
thunderstruck	extremely surprised or shocked
contemplating	thinking deeply or carefully about something

NCERT FOLDER

(Here we have covered questions given in the NCERT textbook along with their answers.)

Read and Find Out (Page 54)

1 Why is Bholi's father worried about her?

Ans. Bholi's father, Ramlal was worried for Bholi because she was an ugly and dumb girl. She had pockmarks on her face and stammered while speaking which might become a hurdle in her marriage.

2 For what unusual reason is Bholi sent to school?

Ans. Bholi was sent to school because when the primary school opened in their village the Tehsildar advised her father to send his daughter to the school as an example for the villagers. After talking with his wife, it was decided that if the ugly Bholi went to school, it would not harm their other daughter's marriage prospects.

(Page 55)

1 Does Bholi enjoy her first day at school?

Ans. Initially, Bholi was scared to go to school. She cried and sat in the corner of her classroom. However, she was fascinated by the colourful pictures on the walls which were very realistic.

Therefore, Bholi was not completely afraid in the school but did enjoy some part of it because of the kind teacher and the new life that it would bring.

2 Does she find her teacher to be different from the people at home?

Ans. Yes, Bholi found her teacher to be different from the people at home. At home, she was neglected and no one paid attention to her. She never bathed nor were her clothes washed. She was criticised and everyone made fun of her. Her teacher was entirely different. She was kind, soft and affectionate. She encouraged her and filled her with a hope of new life.

(Page 58)

1 Why do Bholi's parents accept Bishamber's marriage proposal?

Ans. Bholi's parents accepted Bishamber's marriage proposal as he was a prosperous grocer and had not asked for any dowry.

2 Why does the marriage not take place?

or Why did Bholi not marry Bishamber? CBSE 2020

Ans. At the time of the marriage, Bishamber asked for a dowry of five thousand rupees because he saw Bholi's pock-marked face. Ramlal had no choice but to pay. However, Bholi refused to marry the greedy man. Thus, the marriage could not take place.

Think About It (Page 62)

1 Bholi had many apprehensions about going to school. What made her feel that she was going to a better place than her home?

Ans. Bholi had many apprehensions about going to school because the day she was going to school she was forced by her parents to dress nicely. She was bathed and her hair were oiled. She was even given a clean dress to wear. The special way in which everyone treated has made her feel that she was going to a better place.

2 How did Bholi's teacher play an important role in changing the course of her life?

Ans. Bholi used to stammer and was afraid to speak when she attended school in the beginning. Her teacher treated her kindly and encouraged her to have confidence. She taught Bholi to read and write and made her an independent girl who was aware of her rights. It was because of her teacher's guidance that Bholi developed her personality. Thus, with her kindness, love and affection she changed Bholi's life.

3 Why did Bholi at first agree to an unequal match? Why did she later reject the marriage? What does this tell about her?

Ans. Bholi agreed to the unequal match at first to fulfil her parents' wishes. Later on, she rejected the marriage when the bridegroom asked for dowry. This tells us that Bholi was not a timid and dumb girl. She was aware of her rights. She also knew how to fight for her own dignity and feared no one.

4 Bholi's real name is Sulekha. We are told this right at the beginning. But only in the last but one paragraph of the story is Bholi called Sulekha again. Why do you think she is called Sulekha at that point in the story?

Ans. The word 'Bholi' means a simpleton. Throughout the story she had been a simpleton who hardly expressed her opinion on any matter. The word Sulekha means 'a person with a beautiful sense of letters'. In this story, this word has a larger meaning

of being a literate, intelligent and mature individual. After her education, Bholi has really changed to Sulekha and her assertion at the time of her marriage is her announcement to the world that she is no more a Bholi, but is a Sulekha.

Talk About It (Page 62)

1 Bholi's teacher helped her overcome social barriers by encouraging and motivating her. How do you think you can contribute towards changing the social attitudes illustrated in this story?

Ans. We can contribute by saying no to taking or giving dowry. We must not discriminate between a boy and a girl. Both should be given equal rights and opportunities to grow. We must also learn to respect those who are differently abled and treat them equally.

2 Should girls be aware of their rights and assert them? Should girls and boys have the same rights, duties and privileges? What are some of the ways in which society treats them differently? When we speak of 'Human rights', do we differentiate between girl's rights and boy's rights?

Ans. Yes, girls should be aware of their rights and duties and both the girls and boys should have the same rights, duties and privileges. But there is a differentiation between girl's and boy's rights.

Although equal in the eyes of law, society treats them differently. Parents spend more on a boy's education than that of a girl. A girl is just trained to be a wife and mother.

Boys have special privileges in matters of food, career or freedom. Girls must be aware of their rights to exercise them. They must utilise their education to preserve their self-reliance and dignity. They must be ready to demand their due and even fight for it.

3 Do you think the characters in the story were speaking to each other in English? If not, in which language were they speaking? (You can get clues from the names of the persons and the non-English words used in the story.)

Ans. No, we do not think so that the characters in the story were speaking to each other in English. They spoke in Hindi. Several words like 'numberdar', 'tehsildar sahib', 'izzat' and 'pitaji' are words of Hindi. Even the names of characters like 'Ramlal' and 'Bholi' are in Hindi.

Exam Practice

Extract Based Questions

[2 Marks each]

Read the following extracts carefully and answer the questions that follow.

1 Little Sulekha could not speak till she was five, and when at last she learnt to speak, she stammered. The other children often made fun of her and mimicked her.

(a) What did Sulekha later on come to be known as?

(b) Why did children make fun of her?

Ans. (a) Sulekha later on came to be known as Bholi.

(b) Children made fun of her because she stammered while speaking.

2 She remembered how a few days ago their old cow, Lakshmi, had been turned out of the house and sold. "N-n-n No, no-no-no," she shouted in terror and pulled her hand away from her father's grip.

(a) Why did Bholi shout in terror?

(b) Why did she remember 'Lakshmi'?

Ans. (a) Bholi shouted in terror as she thought that her father was turning her out of her house.

(b) She remembered her cow 'Lakshmi' because 'Lakshmi' had also been turned out of the house a few days ago.

3 The lady teacher who was in class was saying something to the girls but Bholi could understand nothing.

(a) Where was Bholi?

(b) Why could she understand nothing?

Ans. (a) Bholi was in the classroom in village school.

(b) She could not understand anything as it was her first day at school.

4 He said to Ramlal, "As a revenue official you are the representative of the government in the village and so you must set an example to the villagers. You must send your daughters to school."

CBSE 2015

(a) Who is 'he'?

(b) What example does 'he' want Ramlal to set?

Ans. (a) 'He' is the Tehsildar.

(b) The Tehsildar wanted Ramlal to send his daughters to the village school so that other villagers will follow his example by sending their daughters to the school too.

5 Then she began to cry and tears flowed from her eyes in a helpless flood. She kept her head down as she sat in her corner, not daring to look up at the girls, who, she knew, were still laughing at her.

CBSE 2015

(a) Who is 'she'?

(b) Why were the girls laughing at her?

Ans. (a) 'She' is Sulekha, also known as Bholi.

(b) The girls were laughing at her because she had stammered while speaking her name when asked by the teacher.

6 And in her smiling eyes was the light of a deep satisfaction that an artist feels when contemplating the completing of her masterpiece.

(a) What satisfaction did the teacher have?

(b) Find a word from the extract which means 'thinking deeply'.

Ans. (a) The teacher had the satisfaction of seeing her pupil (Bholi) turn into a bold girl willing to fight for her rights.

(d) 'Contemplating' from the extract means 'thinking deeply'.



Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

[2 Marks each]

- 1 Why is Sulekha called 'Bholi'?
- Ans.** Sulekha is called 'Bholi' because she is a simpleton who had suffered some brain damage after falling off a cot when she was ten months old. As a result, she is slow in learning things and also stammered while speaking.
- 2 What happened to Bholi when she was two years old?
- Ans.** Bholi suffered from small pox at the age of two years. Her face and body became full of deep, black pock-marks. She was still fortunate as her eyes had remained untouched and were fine.
- 3 How did Bholi react when the teacher asked her name?
- Ans.** Bholi stammered while she spoke and could not tell her name completely when the teacher asked her name. She broke into tears and sat in the corner of the classroom with her head down.
- 4 Bholi was fascinated by the walls of the classroom. Why?
- Ans.** The walls of the classroom had bright and colourful pictures of a horse, a goat, a parrot and a cow. They all looked familiar to Bholi and were like the ones in the village. That is why she was fascinated to see those pictures.
- 5 What filled Bholi, a dumb cow, with a new hope in her? **CBSE 2015**
- Ans.** Bholi's first day of school brought a hope of a new life. She had found a loving and kind teacher. The teacher encouraged her and gave her a book. She made Bholi feel confident about herself and filled her with courage and hope for a new life.
- 6 In what way did the village change over time?
- Ans.** The village changed into a small town over a period of time. The primary school had become a high school. The village had a cinema and a cotton ginning mill. The mail train also stopped at the village railway station.
- 7 What objections does Ramlal have to Bishamber's proposal?
- Ans.** Ramlal was not very happy with Bishamber's proposal. He did not like the fact that Bishamber was of his age. He had a limp (lameness, difficulty in walking) and his children from his first wife were quite grown up. It was not a very satisfactory

proposition. But he could not do anything for her as Bholi was not beautiful like his other daughters.

- 8 Why do Bholi's parents accept Bishamber's marriage proposal? **CBSE 2015**
- Ans.** Bholi's parents accepted Bishamber's marriage proposal because they were happy that Bishamber was well off and had not asked for dowry. They also realised that because of Bholi's looks, Bishamber would be the perfect match for her.
- 9 Why were Bholi's sisters envious of her luck?
- Ans.** Bishamber Nath was quite prosperous. The procession for Bholi's marriage had a brass-band and the groom rode on a decorated horse. Such pomp and show impressed everyone. All this made her sisters envious of her.
- 10 Why did Bishamber's marriage with Bholi not take place? **CBSE 2013**
- Ans.** Bishamber's marriage with Bholi did not take place because he had demanded a dowry of five thousand rupees from her father for the marriage. So, Bholi refused to marry him and called him a greedy coward.
- 11 Why was Ramlal thunderstruck?
- Ans.** Ramlal had always taken his daughter to be dumb. He was thunderstruck when she loudly asked him to take back the money and declared that she was not going to marry Bishamber because of his greed.
- 12 The last line of the text talks about an artist and the masterpiece. Elaborate.
- Ans.** The 'artist' is the teacher and the 'masterpiece' is Bholi. It was Bholi's teacher who had turned Bholi into a strong and independent girl who was aware of her place in society. As an artist can make a masterpiece if he finds the perfect material, the teacher also transformed a simpleton (Bholi) into an educated and enlightened woman.
- 13 What kind of mother was Ramlal's wife? **CBSE 2014**
- Ans.** Ramlal's wife (Bholi's mother) was a traditional housewife who believed that daughters should not be educated as it would be difficult to find grooms for them. She neglected Bholi as she was ugly and dumb and wanted to get rid of her by marrying her off to anyone.

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

[8 Marks each]

- 1 'Dowry is negation of the girl's dignity'. Discuss with reference to the story 'Bholi'.
- Ans.** Dowry negates the girl's dignity and self-respect. A girl is an individual in her own right. Equal opportunities in life can help her become independent and strong. She is not a burden to be given away with money as compensation. The story 'Bholi' shows this in a dramatic manner.
- Bholi is thought to be ugly and dumb by her parents. So, they are willing to pay dowry to an old man with a limp, so that he marries her. Bholi, on the other hand, refuses to marry that man. She is educated, assertive and capable of taking care of herself.
- She dedicates her life to the service of her parents and teaching at school. So, in the same manner, a girl should rebel when the situation is not praiseworthy or causes trouble to the society as well as other girls. Nowadays, girls are empowering their thoughts and freedom of speech because of education. They are demanding equal rights in the society. A social evil like dowry is not acceptable at any cost as it affects the dignity of a girl. Girls have all the right to say 'no' to the person who demands it and even have a right to involve law in such cases.
- 2 Bholi chose a dignified life of service rather than surrendering herself to a greedy old man for the rest of her life. Education provides the required stimulus to overcome one's personal barriers. Explain the role of education in shaping the life of a child with respect to the lesson 'Bholi'. **CBSE 2012**
- or** School education turned Bholi from a dumb cow into a bold girl. How did she save her father from a huge expense and become his support in his old age? **CBSE 2017**
- or** It was education which made Bholi bold enough to say 'No' to Bishamber, when he demanded five thousand rupees as dowry. **CBSE 2019**
- Comment.**
- or** How did education change Bholi's personality? **CBSE 2020**
- Ans.** Today, education is one of the fundamental rights of everyone. It provides the required stimulus to overcome any barriers put down by society. It aids growth and development and also fills one with confidence and courage.
- In the story 'Bholi', school and education completely transform Bholi. Initially, she was timid and fearful, as she was ugly and used to stammer while speaking. She was afraid to speak to others. She gains a hope of a new life with education. She studies and grows into a courageous as well as a confident woman. She gets aware of her rights and learns to assert them. It was education which made Bholi bold enough to say 'no' to Bishamber, when he demanded five thousand rupees as dowry. She not only saves her father from a huge expense but also becomes capable to support her parents in their old age.
- Bholi is a representative of every other girl who stands for her rights and knows what is right or wrong for her. Education changes her life and she through her education holds the power to change the society and nation.
- 3 "Put the fear out of your heart and you will be able to speak like anyone else." These words of encouragement from the teacher highlight that change of social attitude and encouragement can help a child like Bholi to become confident and face the world bravely. Taking help from the lesson 'Bholi' write how the social attitude towards Bholi made her an introvert. What should be done to help such children to face the world bravely? **CBSE 2015**

or Bholi is a child different from others. This difference makes her an object of neglect and laughter. Elaborate. **CBSE 2019**

Ans. Bholi suffered from a weak mind due to her accident (falling from the cot) when she was ten months old. She also started to a stammer while speaking. Then, she became ugly due to the pock-marks on her face and body on contracting the smallpox disease. All these made her family and other children treat her badly, resulting in her becoming an introvert.

To help such children face the world bravely, we must treat them with love and affection and encourage them to join the mainstream society. We must not mock their disabilities, instead we should give them hope that they can be as good as the other children by motivating and uplifting them.

As we know that every child is special, proper guidance and support should be given to boost up their morals and encourage them to do good in their lives. There are a lot of children like Bholi in our society who need utmost care and affection. We must help them to improve their lives to excel in their future.

4 What do you know about Bishamber Nath? Why did Bholi refuse to marry him? **CBSE 2020**

Ans. Bishamber Nath was a well-to-do prosperous grocer who was of the same age as Bholi's father. He was a widower who had a shop and a house of his own along with a big bank balance. With grown up children from his first wife, Bishamber decided to get married again and agreed to the proposal of marrying Bholi.

On the day of the marriage, Bishamber came to the venue with his friends and family. He entered the venue with much pomp and show. At the time of the ceremony, Bholi entered the venue and her veil was slipped. Initially, Bishamber had not asked for any dowry but after looking at Bholi's pock-marked face, he asked Bholi's father to give ₹ 5000 as dowry. Ramlal, Bholi's father started crying and bought out ₹ 5000. Satisfied with the dowry, Bishamber proceeded with the ceremony, but Bholi refused to marry him. She told her father that she would not marry a greedy man such as Bishamber. She would rather take care of her parents in their old age.

Self Assessment

Extract Based Question

Read the following extract carefully and answer the questions that follow.

- 1 On Bishamber's greedy face appeared a triumphant smile. He had gambled and won.
 - (a) What gamble did he play?
 - (b) Did he actually win?

Short Answer (SA) Type Questions

- 2 How can we change social attitude towards people who are different?
- 3 Why did Ramlal not send all his daughters to school?
- 4 Why did Bishamber demand dowry at the time of marriage although he had not done so when the marriage was fixed?
- 5 What was the role of the teacher in changing Bholi's attitude to life?

Long Answer (LA) Type Questions

- 6 Sending Bholi to school was a 'blessing in disguise'. Do you agree? Support your answer on the basis of the text.
- 7 The story, 'Bholi', throws light on some social evils being practised in our society. Bholi took a stand and succeeded in overcoming the social barriers. What can you contribute to change the social attitudes illustrated in the story?

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